CODI Compendium of Recommendations and Resolutions
The First Session of the Committee on Development Information (CODI I)

Recommendations of the Sub-committee on Statistics

The Addis Ababa Plan of Action of Statistical Development in Africa (Agenda item 7.2)

(a) Implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action

7. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following documents:

a) Implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/15);


Actions taken by the Sub-committee

8. The Sub-committee:

(a) took note of (i) the results of surveys conducted by ECA, during 1997-1998 under the task force “Monitoring the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action” of the Coordinating Committee on the African Statistical Development (CASD) and efforts made in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action at national, subregional, regional and the global level; and (ii) the achievements made in the implementation of the Plan of Action at those levels;

(b) noted also the recommendations which were not achieved in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action as listed in the document;

(c) considered that issues of data quality were beyond the mere consideration of the technical aspects of accuracy, reliability, relevance and timeliness, which data producers regularly addressed and noted that data quality could be affected if users and data suppliers were not adequately involved or sensitized.

(d) recognized that in considering the terms of reference of the CODI, there was need to discuss the role of users of information;

(e) noted that demand for data by users at the lower level of administrative unit should be addressed since it requires additional human and financial resources.

(f) recommended that: (i) other sub-regional organizations in Africa such as AFRISTAT, ECOWAS, SADC, COMESA, etc. should be included in the coordination, by ECA, of technical cooperation in the field of statistics; (ii) ECA or other organizations including African countries should identify and disseminate
precise and concrete examples of coordination mechanisms such as national statistical councils, uses/producer committees, etc; (iii) ECA should sensitize African governments, at the highest level (ministerial level), on the importance of statistics for policy, planning and research purposes;

(g) recommended further that: (i) African governments should incorporate statistical components in programmes/projects as was observed to be the case in some international agencies; (ii) a study of legislation for statistical services of all African countries should be made to enable a prototype to be developed which countries could review in the preparation of their statistical legislations;

(h) urged the donor agencies to continue to participate in CASD which has still an important role to play in African statistical development and to support the participation of African countries to the meetings of the CASD;

(i) emphasized the relevance of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action in the year 2000 and beyond and that any new plan to guide statistical development should take into account emerging issues, challenges and problems affecting the functioning of the national statistical service, establishment of autonomy or semi-autonomy in the organization of the national statistical services, etc.

(j) called upon ECA to address requirements such as the legal framework which would assist in the achievement of the Plan's objectives;

(k) recommended that themes for the celebration of African statistics Day be chosen from areas which had not been achieved in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action to enable sensitization of the African governments and users of information and called upon the secretariat to communicate themes in good time to enable adequate preparation for the celebration of the Day;

(b) Progress report on the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development and report of the 9th CASD meeting

Actions taken by the Sub-committee

9. The Sub-committee:

(a) Took note of: (i) the changing structure and membership of CASD during the period 1992-1999; (ii) the activities and achievements of the committee; and (iii) the summary of conclusions and recommendations of the ninth meetings of CASD, which took place in Addis Ababa from 24-25 June 1999;

(b) Welcomed the role played by donors in the work of the Committee both in the provision of technical support and funding the participation of CASD members at its annual meetings and:

(i) observed the lack of commitment on the part of African Directors of Statistics in their participation at annual meetings of CASD and at the CODI Sub-committee on statistics;

(ii) requested the secretariat to examine how attendance at the CODI Sub-committee on Statistics could be improved by examining, the model of the UN Statistical Commission where membership was limited to 24, with the UN paying the travel of those members;
(iii) endorsed the evaluation of the CASD as a component of the evaluation on the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action.

(iv) decided to recommend the continuation of the work of CASD through the proposed statistics working group of CODI.

Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (1993 SNA) in Africa (Agenda item 7.3)

10. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following documents:

(a) Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts

   - Progress report on the implementation of the 1993 System of national Accounts in Africa (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/17)
   - AFRISTAT Program in National Accounts (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/44)

(b) Report on a survey on the use of micro-computers and specialized software for compiling national accounts in Africa (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/18)

(a) Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts

Actions taken by the Sub-committee

11. The Sub-committee:

(a) took note of the unsatisfactory progress in the implementation of the 1993 SNA in Africa;

(b) further took note of the AFRISTAT programme in National Accounts;

(c) Considered that National Accounts are an essential tool for policy formulation, planning, monitoring and evaluation of economic performance at the national level, as well as for the promotion of regional and sub-regional integration and:

(i) urged African Governments to give the implementation of the 1993 SNA the required attention on a sustainable basis, by taking the appropriate steps in this context and ensuring that these tie in with pertinent medium and long-term strategies;

(ii) further urged ECA to continue providing technical assistance to the countries of the region in the preparation of project documents as well in national accounts compilation, within the framework of the 1993 SNA;

(iii) requested ECA to draw the attention of the Conference of Ministers to the importance of implementing the 1993 SNA;

(iv) requested bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies to launch a five-year multifaceted and coordinated regional assistance programme for the implementation of the 1993 SNA, with emphasis on the compilation of institutional sector accounts.
(v) encouraged (AFRISTAT) to continue providing technical assistance to its member States in national accounts compilation within the framework of the 1993 SNA as well as on improving basic economic statistics.

(b) Report of a survey on the use of microcomputers and specialized software for compiling national accounts in Africa

Actions taken by the Sub-committee

(a) recalled the recommendations of the Conference of African Planners, Statisticians, Population and Information Specialists regarding statistical development in Africa and the need for producing timely and accurate national accounts;

(b) took note of the role of microcomputers in National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and the diversity of the statistical packages available for compiling national accounts in Africa;

(c) recommended the adoption of compatible standards and the intensification of the computerization of national accounts and other statistical activities.

Status report on integrated household survey programmes in Africa since the 1980s (Agenda item 7.4)

12. The Sub-Committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following document:

Status report on integrated household survey programmes in Africa since the 1980s (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/19).

Actions taken by the Sub-committee

13. The Sub-committee:

(a) noted that the strategy for strengthening integrated household survey programmes in African countries should take into account the need:

(i) to focus on a core programme of surveys as identified by the countries in the context of their respective national needs and priorities for household survey data;
(ii) to consider the scope of core programmes essentially in context of household income and expenditure, labour force, agriculture production and inter-census demographic surveys;
(iii) for core programmes to be conceived modestly such that the core programmes can be implemented through national resources;
(iv) to review some of the established and accepted conventions on scope and content of the core programmes and the role of population based master samples, the deployment of permanent survey teams of enumerators of data, etc.

(b) expressed awareness that the concept of integration in a system of household survey programmes was not yet well understood by many countries;

(c) recognized the need for technical assistance to further country level capabilities especially in data processing and dissemination, particularly by enhancing the
analytical capability of the CSOs; and, the need to promote south-south cooperation and technical assistance among African countries and to review institutional arrangements for the provision of such assistance;

(d) recommended the convening of an intergovernmental working group of experts that would address the issues affecting the successful implementation of integrated household surveys and establish a strategy for revitalising and strengthening integrated household survey programmes in African countries.

Institutional capacity building (Agenda item 7.5)

14. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following document:


Actions taken by the sub-committee

15. The Sub-committee:

(a) considered the status of statistical training in Africa;

(b) took note of the important role played by the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) Centres;

(c) welcomed the recent establishment of the Joint ADB/IMF/ World Bank training institute in Abidjan as a useful addition to the capacity to train statisticians in Africa;

(d) expressed its awareness that universities in Africa and abroad were contributing to the supply of statisticians;

(e) recognized the increasing need for statisticians at all levels, both for the public and private sectors and the problems faced by the training centres;

(f) endorsed the recommendations for strengthening statistical training contained at paragraphs 242 to 244 of the Report on Statistical Training in Africa: The Statistical Training Programme for Africa, its evaluation and the future.

Review of the terms of reference of CODI (Agenda item 7.6)

16. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following document:

Review of the Terms of Reference of the committee on Development Information (CODI) (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/24)

Actions taken by the Sub-committee

17. The Sub-committee:

(a) reviewed the proposed terms of reference which provide further elaboration and details to better focus the work of CODI;

(b) suggested that the paragraph 3 be amended to read:
"States, not members of the Commission, inter-governmental organizations, academic institutions and research centers, agencies of the UN, non-governmental organizations and users shall be invited to the meetings of CODI and its sub-committees".

(c) suggested that paragraph 18 be deleted;

(d) recommended the terms of reference of CODI proposed in the document E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/24 for approval as amended.

ECA statistical activities and Programmes of Work (Agenda 7.7(a))

18. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following documents:

(a) Report on ECA statistical activities for the period April 1996 to May 1999 (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/21)
(b) Summary of the recommendations of ECA workshops (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/22)
(c) Programme of work in the area of statistics for the biennium 2000-2001 (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/28)

(a) Report on ECA statistical activities for the period April 1996 to May 1999

Actions taken by the sub-committee

19. The Sub-committee:

(a) took note of the reports on ECA statistical activities.

(b) Summary of the recommendations of ECA workshops.

20. The Sub-committee:

(a) considered the recommendations of the eight workshops organized by ECA during the period April 1996 to May 1999;

(b) expressed its doubt on the implementation of the integrated economic and environmental accounting in the near future;

(c) welcomed the information on the ongoing work undertaken by the Inter-agency task force on finance statistics chaired by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) concerning the external debt management leading to the publication of a "Guide for users and producers of external debt statistics" as well as work on the manual on Government Finance Statistics consistent with the 1993 System of National Accounts (1993 SNA);

(d) endorsed the recommendations of the eight workshops on National accounts statistics, Services in the informal sector, Environment statistics, indicators and accounting and Improving the quality of African statistics contained in the document E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/22.

21. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following document:

The General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/28)
Actions taken by the Sub-committee

22. The Sub-committee

(a) examined the programme of work and priorities of ECA in the area of Statistics for the biennium 2000-2001;

(b) considered that this programme of work is not only appropriate, but also germane to the concerns and requirements of ECA member States;

(c) noted that the budgetary provisions of the United Nations may not be sufficient to carry out this programme of work fully;

(d) urged bilateral and multilateral partners to support the programme with appropriate financial resources to help make it a success, and to help with ECA’s activities in the area of statistical development.

General Data Dissemination System (Agenda item 7.8)

22. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following document:

(a) Measurement, collection and compilation of HIV/AIDS statistics (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/29)

(b) Poverty statistics in Africa (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/45)

(c) Africa: Demographic, environmental and agricultural indicators (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/26)

(d) Some guiding principles for good practices in technical cooperation for statistics (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/27)

Actions taken by the Sub-committee

23. The Sub-committee,

(a) considered the critical situation of data quality and timeliness in Africa;

(b) took into account the need of having tools, which can improve data quality and rationalize and prioritize statistical activities;

(c) took into account also the need to provide to decision makers, development partners, other users and donors with accurate, coherent and timely data;

(d) noted the report of the IMF on the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) as well as the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS);

(e) noted with appreciation the four dimensions of the GDDS, namely quality, access, integrity and data, and the impact they will have in promoting statistical development;

(f) noted also that the financial and technical assistance from the IMF, the World Bank, and other donors would be helpful to reinforce statistical capacities in carrying out the different tasks required by the GDDS and the SDDS;
(g) encouraged the member States to subscribe to the System;

(h) urged the IMF to take into account the different situations in the subscribing countries in their fixing advance release calendars;

(i) urged also the IMF to include National Statistical Offices in its contacts with the national authorities on statistical matters;

(j) urged further that the IMF, in its contacts with the highest policy makers in member countries, to emphasize the importance of statistics with a view to generating domestic support and resources for national statistical offices.

Other selected issues (Agenda item 7.9)

(a) Measurement, collection and compilation of HIV/AIDS statistics

24. The Sub-committee:

(a) recalled the resolution adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers at its meeting in May 1999 which called upon the Executive Secretary of ECA to work closely with UNAIDS and any other institutions to gather, analyse, and disseminate data on the economic impact of HIV/AIDS to facilitate policy development and programme planning;

(b) noted the need for monitoring the incidence of HIV/AIDS, estimation of adult mortality and increasing demand of data on the social and economic impact of HIV/AIDS and the demand for high quality data in this field.

(c) noted also the efforts of the UN Statistics Division and the US Bureau of the Census in monitoring the incidence and prevalence of HIV/AIDS and development methodologies;

(d) took note of the data being reported widely on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, the sources of data and projection models being used by organizations;

(e) expressed concern with the need to ensure that the data is reported widely on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, the sources of data and projection models being used by organizations;

(f) recognized the major effects of HIV/AIDS on the population dynamics of the countries including population decreases, reduction in the rate of population growth, reduction in the life expectancy at birth, and increase in infant and child mortality;

(g) recognized further the erosion of the development gains of the past decades of many African countries which had resulted from HIV/AIDS pandemic;

(h) appreciated the efforts made by UNICEF in convening a meeting of Directors of Statistics in Sub-Saharan Africa on Multiple Indicator Custer Modules-Aids and the inclusion, for the first time, of data collection activities on HIV/AIDS in household surveys in African countries;

(i) requested the secretariat to implement the resolution which was adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers and ensure an appropriate role of national statistical services in the field of HIV/AIDS.
(j) requested also the agencies to involve more African countries in the workshops on HIV/AIDS statistics which they conducted, to enable a better understanding of the methodology for collection and analysis of the data;

(k) emphasized the need for coordination among agencies and countries in the measurement, collection and compilation of HIV/AIDS statistics and the role of national statistical offices in this regard.

(b) Poverty statistics in Africa

25. The Sub-committee

(a) considered the severity and the intensity of absolute poverty in Africa, which affects more than 50 per cent of the total population;

(b) took into account the need to ensure full involvement of African countries in the definition of concepts and methodologies for poverty measurement and analysis and the impact of poverty on the ability of countries to produce accurate and timely statistics on the phenomenon essential for decision making for the welfare of affected populations;

(c) considered the fact that household surveys are the primary sources of information for poverty measurement and analysis;

(d) encouraged the exchange of information between member States, subregional and regional institutions, and donors countries, which have a substantial amount of data sets and databases on household surveys.

(c) Selected indicators for sustainable development

26. The Sub-committee took note of the report and selected indicators for food security and sustainable development.

(d) Some good practices for technical cooperation in statistics

27. The Sub-committee

(a) noted the importance of the document on good practices for technical cooperation for statistics for the design and management of technical cooperation programmes and projects;

(b) urged African countries to implement the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

(c) endorsed the practices as a good framework for discussion of technical cooperation between donors and recipients.

Any other business
The Sub-committee considered the report of the task force established by CASD on the evaluation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action and had before it the following document:


The Sub-committee:

(a) received the first report of the task force which was established by the Committee on African Statistical Development (CASD) on the “Evaluation of the implementation and future of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for statistical development in Africa in the 1990s” which provided a description of the background, objectives, methodology, skills requirements of consultants, outputs and the timeframe of the evaluation;

(b) took note of the work of the task force which was continuing and that the results of the evaluation will be presented to the next meeting of CASD to be convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in the year 2000;

(c) further took note of the different organizational arrangements of national statistical offices including semi and full autonomy status of these offices and the implications with regard to budgeting and decision making;

(d) noted also the overlap in meetings of regional and subregional organization during the week of the first meeting of CODI;

(e) requested that regional and subregional organizations should liaise their calendars of meetings.

Plenary sessions panel discussions and presentations on statistical development in Africa on: (1) African statistical development: the road ahead, (2) Major challenges in the year 2000 and beyond (Agenda items 4 and 5)

The Sub-committee revised the presentations and discussions during the plenary sessions on

(a) African statistical development: the road ahead and

(b) Major challenges in the year 2000 and beyond (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/45)

Actions taken by the Sub-committee

The Sub-committee,

(a) noted the fundamental importance of statistics for the promotion of economic and social development and the challenges to African statistical development in the year 2000 and beyond, namely improving quality and availability of statistical data on a wide range of subjects including the Minimum National Social Data Sets,

(b) noted that the strategies for statistical development in Africa should include taking advantage of the new information and communication technologies, educating and influencing decision-makers, training as many statisticians as possible, urging
governments to improve the working conditions for statisticians, sharing of data among African and international organizations, devoting more resources to data analysis and forging partnerships for statistical development,

(c) urged that efforts should be made to:

- improve quality of data by reducing the time-lag in the release of data, and drawing up and implementing a vigorous data dissemination programme;
- promote efficiency in the administrative and financial management of national statistical services;
- ensure that national statistical services were well equipped with appropriate computers and related software;
- utilize new information and communication technologies as much as possible;
- promote the use of GIS systems and infrastructure for population and housing censuses and mapping;
- promote synergy between statistics, geo-information and information and communication technologies;
- obtain political commitment of African governments in terms of resources for statistical development;
- call upon the private sector to contribute to the funding of national statistical services; and;
- seek for greater support from donors and partners in statistical development.

(d) urged African countries to embark upon, as quickly as possible, actions that could enable them to confront the numerous challenges facing African statistical development;

(d) requested ECA to undertake a detailed assessment of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s, with a view to working out a new framework for statistical development in Africa in the year 2000 and beyond as well as a strategy for its implementation at regional, subregional and national levels.

Presentation of the US Bureau of the Census software packages (Agenda item 7.10)

The Sub-committee noted the software packages presented by the US Bureau of the Census International Programmes Centre, in particular the next generation of Integrated Microcomputer Processing System (IMPS) which were presented in a special session of CODI: an Integrated Census and Survey Processing and Analysis System.

Adoption of the report of the Sub-committee (Agenda 7.11)

The Sub-committee considered and adopted its report for presentation to the Plenary Session of CODI.
Recommendations of the Sub-committee on Geoinformation

Review of the terms of reference of the subcommittee

4. Paragraphs 20 and 22 were amended and read as follows:

20. The sub-committee on geoinformation shall be the forum for high level representatives of ECA member States to discuss, share information and establish policies for the development and the use of geographic information, in particular it shall:

(a) raise awareness on the benefits to be derived through the utilization of geographic information for socio-economic development,

(b) promote its development and utilization in member States;

(c) identify and raise awareness about priority issues in geographic information;

(d) examine and review progress made by member States;

(e) facilitate capacity building with regard to spatial information capture, management, dissemination and utilization.

(f) provide information, with partnerships, on recent and proven trends and present status of knowledge and advise on new and proven technologies and methodologies to improve spatial data collection and its processing into useful information for decision-making;

(g) promote the development of methodologies and standards in these fields;

(h) develop and support the establishment of national, regional and global geo-spatial infrastructures with the aim of facilitating integration of data and optimizing the use of resources.

(i) identify, promote and support regional projects;

(j) examine and provide principles regarding ownership, access to, custodial responsibilities and commercial aspects of spatial data, which will promote transparency and the flow of spatial data and information.

(k) The sub-committee will liaise and coordinate its activities with other similar international, regional and sub-regional bodies, initiatives and conferences.

(l) Promote networking among institutions and practitioners in geoinformation, and generate synergy at national level to facilitate its management.

22. Observers will and representatives of national, regional, subregional, international organizations, UN agencies, IGOs, NGOs, academia and research institutions, private sector and the industry, including producers and users of geoinformation; and the heads of the national agencies from non-African governments or their representatives.


9. The subcommittee received and noted the respective work programmes.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

10. The sub-committee made the following recommendations:

Resolution 1. National Geo-Information Infrastructures

The ECA-CODI Subcommittee on Geo-Information
Recognizing

the importance of geo-spatial information as a backbone for planning, decision making and implementation of sustainable development as well as the need for food security, poverty alleviation, environmental monitoring and control and natural resources management.

Noting

The absence of a homogenous horizontal and vertical geodetic datum for Africa.

Urges that

1. African countries develop policies and strategies for the establishment of national geospatial data infrastructures and build data bases which include multi scale geographically referenced core data to be used as foundation for a wide range of geo-information applications

2. as part of the national geo-information policy, national data standards are defined in line with regional and international parameters. In the interest of synergy well-coordinated efforts should be made to involve all stakeholders in particular the government, the private sector, the Universities and the NGOs, etc.

3. National governments are requested to transform their respective national datums to the world wide WGS84 and ITRS reference systems including the determination of the geoid.

4. The subcommittee on geo-information, in collaboration with AOCRS, RCMRD, RECTAS and other relevant institutions, establish mechanisms and standards to harmonize GPS data collection, processing, archiving and exchange for use by all African countries.

5. The sub-committee on geoinformation determine the most appropriate manner in which the African region participate in the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure.

Resolution 2 : Availability of spatial data and cost recovery

The ECA-CODI Subcommittee on Geo-Information

Noting

the investment value and the national benefits of spatial data recommends:

1. the creation, in each country, of mechanisms to make governments aware of the benefits and utility of geo-spatial data for socio-economic development

2. that national governments make significant investments in the acquisition of spatial data and recognize it as national asset, indispensable for sustainable development programs.

3. facilitate geo-information dissemination, through networking of expertise based on bilateral and multilateral partnerships, on recent trends and state-of-the art in the areas of data acquisition, analysis, management and dissemination including best practices and methodologies.
4. that national geo-information bodies and/or providers including governments, the private sector and other partners contribute and identify sources of funding for geo-information production.

Advice governments

5. to develop policies which follow cost-recovery principle including the commercialization of geo-information products.

Resolution 3 Land –Information Management

The ECA-CODI Subcommittee on Geo-Information

recognising:

the critical need for timely land information for decision-making, to address issues of poverty alleviation, food security and security of tenure for all, and noting the limited financial and human resources available to develop LIM as well as the general lack of policy in regard to land information

recognising furthermore:

the monitoring, management and upgrading of informal settlements and customary tenure are essential components of the process of improving quality of life in Africa

recommends that

1. LIM systems should be designed in harmony with the national geo-spatial data infrastructure to increase the capacity to collect, interpret and apply information to establish trends and to assist decision-makers.

2. national stakeholders’ fora should be set up to address the institutional linkages issues associated with an LIM system.

3. a Regional Forum should be established under the coordination of ECA to harmonize and work out a dynamic spatial data framework for cadastral and LIM systems at regional level, in liaison with similar LIS organizational structures at international level.

4. a pilot program/project(s) should be developed in the region to demonstrate the feasibility/viability/replicability of a GIS/LIM system based on the visualization framework approach, accompanied by a cost benefit analysis.

5. national strategies are developed for the design and implementation of spatial data strategies for the monitoring and management of informal settlements and customary tenure, in accordance with project based education and employment for assistants within the rural and informally settled communities.

Resolution 4 Capacity building

The ECA-CODI Subcommittee on Geo-Information

Recognising
Capacity building and education in Africa in the area of spatial data acquisition, modeling and visualization, is under severe pressure as a result of under-resourcing and lack of sufficient institutions and facilities at all educational and training levels

recommends that

1. a Center for Distance Learning is established through a network of African national and sub-regional institutions and Universities

2. a network of educational institutions and sub-regional centers is established and an assessment of the major educational institutions in Africa is carried out.

3. joint research projects of African educational institutions in the areas of spatial data acquisition, modeling and visualization, and land management, are initiated. Such projects could also incorporate the expertise of existing or new partner institutions in other parts of the world.

4. existing short courses/workshops relevant to Geo-Information are reinforced and new ones introduced

5. two joint FIG, ISPRS, ICA, ECA and OACRS workshops or seminars (one for the franco-phone and one for the anglo-phone region) on GIS and Spatial Information Management to be organised in Africa in the biennium 2000-2001

6. relevant national Ministries as well as institutes of higher education are made aware of the relevance of Geo-information education for national development

Resolution 5: Establishment of a Standing Preparatory Working Group

The ECA-CODI Subcommittee on Geo-Information

Recognizing

the necessity to be more effective and responsive to the needs of member States, to ensure successful meetings and maintain continuity between meetings,

Decides

1. To establish a Standing Preparatory Working Group (SPWG) to: ensure continuity between meetings; set up the theme, agenda and background documents and format; consider special issues of the next meeting and follow up and report on the implementation of resolutions as well as on the progress made in the region.

2. This WG shall be composed by representatives of the various sub-regions, plus representatives of relevant sub-regional/regional organizations, and the private sector. The Chairman will be the Chairman of the Sub-Committee while ECA will ensure the secretariat. The work of the WG would be in close consultation with member States in each sub-region, and with an Advisory Committee of experts which would provide guidance to the Sub-Committee.

3. The Working Group for the period between the First and Second Meetings of the Sub-Committee shall be constituted by:
4. The Standing Working Group will establish its own terms of reference as well as those of the Advisory Committee, and will select the members of the Advisory Committee, who will act in their personal capacities.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

11. The sub-committee adopted its report on Thursday 1 July 1999 at 20:15 hours.

Recommendations of the Sub-committee on Information and Communication Technologies

Agenda item 6.2

Participants adopted the agenda and programme of work presented in E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/Add1. Regarding the organisation of work, the first day of the sub-committee would discuss important themes on ICT. On its second day, debate would centre on the DISD work programme in information and communication technologies. On its final day, participants would make country and institutional presentations and adopt the report of the Sub-Committee.

The secretariat presented document E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/8 entitled "Status of Connectivity in Africa". The secretariat indicated that Africa had seen a substantial growth in broadcasting, telecommunications and Internet infrastructure over the last several years. Although African countries had made considerable investment in computer hardware and software, they tend to be underutilised. Among the challenges that African information infrastructure faces are the following: extension of telecommunications infrastructure, strategies for choice of suitable technologies among myriad of options, expansion of public access especially to rural areas, improving applications of new technologies and content development.

Participants commented and made suggestions in five key areas:

Basic physical infrastructure

Rural infrastructure was key in disseminating innovative applications to communities in Africa. However, with its dispersed population the reality indicates that the majority in rural areas are likely to remain out of touch with the new information society unless major efforts are made in this direction. The consequences are high if rural schools are left out of the new information age. The various low cost satellite technologies such as VSATs and local wireless technologies could be exploited to bridge this gap.

Expansion of urban infrastructure is as crucial as that of rural areas especially to satisfy long waits for telephones and to increase the bandwidth. This can not be achieved without building an African telecommunications backbone. Interconnectivity between African countries through a regional backbone would improve bandwidth and help the region to reverse the current costly networks that link neighbouring countries through Europe and North America.
The quality of supportive infrastructure such as electricity and roads remains very low in the region. Most African countries are experiencing electric surges and blackouts. It is important to sensitise telecommunications and broadcasters as well as energy and transport sector managers.

The reliability of telecommunication infrastructure remains a major threat to the use of the Internet. A combination of various technologies including CD-ROM could alleviate this problem. The point was made that information and communication technologies were far more than Intranet and that the whole panoply of available technologies should be fully utilized for production of, access to and dissemination of information.

**Content/information infrastructure**

Although progress in improving the basic infrastructure is crucial the limited attention to content would have serious consequences on African information infrastructure. Significant attention should be paid to content development and dissemination, training of intermediaries and education and building awareness in new techniques of content packaging and dissemination. Information technologies that reach rural areas, including both mass and hybrid technologies, need content based on local needs. The role of intermediaries in reaching rural people was stressed.

Libraries and information services could play a critical role in improving African content. Training of librarians in new content development tools, sensitisation of policy makers on content issues and identification of areas of critical importance including agriculture, environment, health and education and gathering, processing and disseminating information in these areas was stressed. The full involvement of universities in utilization of information infrastructure was vital.

ECA should continue supporting content development in Africa. Information on "who is doing what" is crucial to learn from the experiences of other and build on existing knowledge. In addition to sustaining its effort in supporting the African content ECA should consider building information on "who is doing what" in African information infrastructure. The Secretariat informed that Sub-Committee that much information on this topic was available from the AI-AIMS database (http://www.bellanet.org/partners/picta) of the Partnership for Information and Communication Technologies in Africa Web site.

**Policy and Regulatory framework**

Participants saw the lack of an enabling environment, resulting especially from telecommunication monopolies as a major bottleneck to information infrastructure development in Africa. Monopoly frequently resulted in the high cost of and limited access to telephones and other information infrastructure in the region. There was a need for continuous sensitisation of policy makers and regulators to reduce monopoly and move towards both privatisation and liberalisation. Competition could attract foreign investment needed to expand infrastructure.

**Partnership and co-ordination**

A significant number of initiatives have already been working on improving African telecommunications infrastructure. Effective partnership among all those working in this area within the continent and at national level would help the efficient utilisation of resources for building African information infrastructure.

The United States Bureau of the Census offered to host or mirror Web sites free of charge for African statistical offices. The Sub-Committee noted that the OAU was establishing a Centre for Information Exchange in collaboration with the ECA.

**Capacity building**
The future of African information infrastructure relies heavily on the capacity of Africa to build innovative applications that address local problems. This could be possible through training ICT professionals in African universities and building a capacity to design and assemble information and communication technology equipment. It was suggested that Africa should not only use, but must also produce at least some of its own technology.

**Agenda item 6.3**

**National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) plans and policies**

The ECA secretariat presented the document "Developing National Information and Communications Infrastructure (NICI) policies, plans and strategies: the 'why' and 'how'" (E/EC/3/49/CODI.1/7) on this agenda item.

In addition to presenting the paper, the secretariat demonstrated a web site that ECA is developing which compiles fact sheets on the status of NICI policies, plans and strategies in African countries. The presentation focused on the transformation from National Information Policy to NICI policies and strategies, documenting NICI status and progress in Africa, and examples of countries that have incorporated NICI plans in their national development plans.

Participants expressed concern on duplication of efforts and stressed the strong need for synergies between the various activities in developing NICI policies, plans and strategies, and other ICT activities in Africa. In response to this concern, it was agreed that the Partnership for Information and Communication Technologies in Africa (PICTA), which was established in 1997 under the framework of the African Information Society Initiative (AISI), was a valuable vehicle for partnership and collaboration in ICT activities in Africa. Further collaborative activities were envisaged in the upcoming African Development Forum 1999 (ADF '99) which is going to take place in Addis Ababa from 24 to 28 October 1999 on the theme Globalisation and the Information Age.

Participants felt that obtaining political support and sensitising political leaders was an extremely important activity in achieving the desired goals for developing an effective NICI policy and plan. The importance of such national policies in ensuring that African people could access information resources in a cost-effective manner was stressed. The secretariat detailed plans about workshops it is organizing to sensitize political leaders in the region on the utility of developing such policies.

Concern was expressed on the possible misallocation of Africa's scarce resources on underutilised ICT infrastructure. However, participants reached consensus on the strong need for Africa to leapfrog by making a judicious use of the new technologies, such as wireless and satellite technologies, instead of passing through all stages of technological development. This way, Africa could effectively utilise the opportunities that the new technologies offered to its development endeavours.

Participants acknowledged ECA's progress in documenting NICI policies and plans in Africa and suggested that ECA go further in addressing NICI issues in African countries by conducting a complete survey and a comprehensive inventory of NICI status in all African countries. The contribution of UNESCO to this effort was noted.

Participants emphasised the linkage between ICT applications (education, health, e-commerce, cultural heritage, tourism, etc.) and economic development, which leads to the need for incorporating ICT issues in national development plans. ICT applications are considered as the driving force for developing NICI policies and plans, and participants strongly felt that NICI policies and plans have to be an integral part of national development plans. It was suggested that ICT could not only support development but could indeed become the engine of growth in Africa.

The need for Africa to develop an ICT production industry was expressed as a window of opportunity which might spark overall development in Africa. Consensus was reached on the need for activities
in both the maintenance and production aspect of the ICT industry (both hardware and software) focusing on local needs and applications, with emphasis on the role of the private sector. It was felt that the website on NICI status should also try to include data on ICT production status of African countries.

Securing ICT access for rural communities was underlined as one of the main considerations in developing NICI policies and plans in Africa, and planning with users for the utilization of information and information technologies.

**Agenda item 6.4**

**Content development in Africa**

The secretariat presentation ("African Content Development: Creation and Dissemination" E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/3) was a continuation of its presentation to the Plenary (agenda item 4) on this topic on 28 June. The representative of the Secretariat pointed out that all areas of content development, ranging from traditional ones such as book publishing to Web-based content, were least developed in Africa of all the world's regions. He stressed that web-based information systems (WIS) were important because they tied together all the other tools of content development. He discussed the issues in creating, hosting and disseminating web content in Africa and suggested national strategies for improving content in Africa. He concluded by underlining the importance of being on the Internet so as to build web content.

The chairperson stressed that the information needs of users had to be taken into account in developing and maintaining information repositories, including Web-based ones. Comments from participants covered a wide range of issues including access, capacity, tools and content type.

The limited Internet access that academic and research communities in Africa presently have was raised as an issue of concern with direct relevance to Africa's ability to engage in research and teaching. The need for provision of content in all formats, including the Web, as Internet access remains so limited in the region. The continuing role of libraries and other information intermediaries was stressed, as well as the desirability of traditional information specialists becoming information brokers to the new technologies. Advantages of the Internet were cited, such as the decentralisation and democratisation of information access.

Regarding the capacity to develop content in Africa, ECA was requested to provide assistance to African countries in this area. The secretariat informed participants that it shared their concern and briefed them on ECA's efforts to address the issue. The World Bank's activities in the area of content development with particular respect to indigenous knowledge were detailed.

Concerning the tools used in content development and accessing the Internet, the availability of tools which provide wider access to the Internet such as e-mail delivery of web sites was pointed out. The need to conserve web content on media such as CD-ROM and DVD-ROM was also raised. Several participants raised the issue of considering other means of content provision including radio and television and creating links between the new technologies and others such as radio, television, print media and traditional fora.

The need to focus on the inclusion of ICT related content in teacher training curriculum was stressed. UNESCO detailed efforts towards virtual university and research development. One participant stressed that web content should become a way to help building an African personality with an African image. Also pointed out was the necessity of utilizing the new media to African advantage, along with the need to promote information culture that looked favorably on the free dissemination of information. It was felt that the development of local content would make WIS more relevant to communities. Local content issues included access to government information, use of local languages and dissemination of indigenous knowledge. The secretariat detailed the free availability of tools for Web-based content development, the need for information brokers, the trade-off between information access and use, and the possibility of developing content offline.
Agenda item 6.5

In introducing agenda item 6.5, the secretariat presented documents E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/3 and E/ECA/DISD/CODI.14 which gave detailed information on the last meetings ATAC and of PICTA. Information was also provided on the African Information Society Initiative, as ATAC and PICTA are AISI modalities of implementation.

In the debate on this item, several participants stressed the importance of political commitment to implement resolutions in order to bring reality to the information society in Africa, while others cited examples of such commitment in their countries. Implementation of AISI through PICTA coordination mechanisms and close partnership between AISI and other African initiatives such as the African Connection were commended. In addition to existing AISI coordination efforts countries were urged to set up mechanisms to coordinate ICT activities at national level. Several delegates stressed the need to liberalise and privatise telecommunication services in order to reduce tariffs and provide communications services to rural areas. Such actions would facilitate the implementation of AISI at national level. The secretariat detailed the steps that it had taken to sensitise African decision makers on this issue.

Agenda item 6.6
Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Standing Committee on Standardization and Harmonization of Information Systems in Africa

The secretariat presented document E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/9 which contained information on the officers, country and institutions papers and other proceedings of the Eighth Meeting of the Standing Committee on Standardization and Harmonization of Information Systems in Africa. It also described the training in which members of the Standing Committee had taken part.

Following the recommendation made by the Standing Committee workshop participants on the need for collaboration between ECA and UNESCO in assisting member states to host their databases and information content on the Web, one participant noted that facilities in the universities and research institutes in each member country could be utilized for this purpose.

The issue of Local Area Networks (LANs) was raised, for their importance in advancing the state of information and communication technology utilization in the region and in facilitating Internet connectivity. It was noted that while the skills’ base in Africa for the management of LANs was still fairly limited, there were even fewer who were trained as Internet node implementers and operators. While acknowledging the efforts of the Internet Society and ECA in training African Internet node operators, it was noted that more needs to be done in this area to support Internet connectivity initiatives in Africa. The Secretariat informed the Committee about the ECA survey on the utilization of ICTs, including LANs, in African universities and research institutions. The database with results of the survey would shortly be posted on the World Wide Web.

The secretariat demonstrated its Intranet, which had been developed as a DISD project activity funded by the Government of Korea. The Intranet is a closed access facility for the ECA secretariat and United Nations organizations based in Addis Ababa. The presentation on Intranet was to demonstrate to member States how TCP/IP technology could be used effectively for information dissemination within an organisation.

Agenda item 6.7
Review of the Terms of Reference of the Committee on Development Information (CODI)
The Secretariat presented document E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/24 with the same title as the agenda item. The secretariat presented revised terms of reference for the consideration of the first meeting of CODI because the original terms of reference, as established by the ECA Conference of Ministers in 1997, were found inadequate to facilitate CODI's work.

Some participants felt that specific information and communication technologies such as broadcasting, as well as information specialties, such as libraries and archives, should be spelled out in the Sub-Committee terms of reference. The consensus, however, was that the references were deliberately non-specific to include all rather than exclude any information technologies and specialties. Several participants proposed elevating the status of Observers to Members. The Secretariat explained that it was bound by United Nations rules in this regard, but that invitations sent to observers would encourage their full participation. Several participants stressed the need to reinforce efforts to secure greater participation on the part of African universities, research institutes and the Association of African Universities.

One participant stressed that as a forum of discussion CODI should go beyond references to the use of ICTs to their development aspects. It was noted that the inconsistencies between the texts relating to the different sub-Committees should be corrected. It was suggested that the Sub-Committee on Information and Communication Technologies should also include under its description a section on monitoring and reporting, as appeared in the section on geo-information, requesting member States to submit reports to the Secretariat on its activities in the area of information and communication technologies.

**Agenda item 6.8**


In introducing this agenda item for consideration, the secretariat detailed the work programmes being undertaken and to be undertaken by the subprogramme in ICT. The resources attached to these activities were, unless otherwise specified, from the regular budget of the United Nations. Document E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1./10, the second aspect of the presentation, dealt with the former PADIS project: its achievements, weaknesses, evolution and absorption into the new ECA structure within DISD.

In the discussions on the above item, members requested more information about the relations between DISD and the following:
- the Standing Committee on the Harmonization and Standardization of Information Systems in Africa
- the former PADIS project
- the ECA subprogramme on Harnessing Information for Development.

Members requested also information on the relations between AISI and CODI, CODI and the Standing Committee and membership in CODI. The secretariat clarified that the work and aims of PADIS, an extrabudgetary project, had been incorporated into the regular work programme of the Division. All the agreements which PADIS had entered into with partners needed to be reviewed in light of the new ECA structures.

Comprised of experts and funded by extra-budgetary sources, the Standing Committee was convened by the Director of the DISD. Since its work was highly relevant to the Sub-Committee on Information and Communication Technologies of CODI, which dealt with norms and standards in ICT, the Standing Committee would present reports on its work to CODI. As long as funds remained for its operation, it would continue its work. The Development Information Services Division was the organizational unit of the ECA secretariat which implemented the sub-programme on Harnessing Information for Development. The ECA Conference of Ministers had adopted the African Information Society Initiative, but had mandated ECA to work on its implementation with as many partners as possible, in view of its immense scope. The organizational unit at ECA responsible for the coordination of AISI was DISD through its team on promoting information and communication technologies. There was also a strong proposal for the revival of the information management and
dissemination services at the ECA Subregional Development Centres (SRDCs). To that effect, participants encouraged the deployment of ICT focal points to each of the SRDCs in order to monitor, coordinate and evaluate ICT development in the various subregions and in member States.

Agenda item 6.9
Participant presentations

Recommendations
The Sub-Committee adopted the following recommendations:
1. CODI urges ECA to deploy ICT focal points to each of the Subregional Development Centres (SRDCs) in order to monitor, coordinate and evaluate ICT development in the various subregions and in member States.
2. ECA should work with its partners to secure assistance to institutions in Africa and member States in the area of content development and building Web sites.
3. In order to promote the right of all citizens, especially those in underserved areas, to access affordable means of communication, member States should be encouraged to privatise and liberalise communications services.
4. In view of the inevitable forces of globalisation and the information revolution, African Members states are urged to consider the importance of the information economy, including the development of information industries and e-commerce, as an area of economic growth that can drive other sectors.
5. Member States are urged to recall the adoption of the African Information Society Initiative by the ECA Conference of Ministers in 1996 and to redouble their efforts to work towards its implementation. They are further urged to establish national coordination mechanisms to work towards harmonization and coordination of ICT initiatives in their countries.
6. ECA should recognize the pressing needs of tertiary level and research institutions in Africa with respect to information and communication technologies and develop activities to serve their needs. NGOs and local authorities also have special requirements that deserve attention.
7. African Governments should give high priority to the solution of the Year 2000 problem in order for our information systems to survive the new millennium.
8. To CODI- given the growing convergence between various information and communication technologies and the shared aim of moving towards knowledge societies, Governments should try to include information specialists from as many disciplines as possible in their delegations to CODI.
9. To CODI- the inconsistencies between Sub-Committee texts in the revised terms of reference should be eliminated. The Sub-Committee on Information and Communication Technologies should insert a point on Member States’ monitoring and reporting by submitting reports on their ICT activities to CODI.
The Second Session of the Committee on Development Information (CODI II)

Recommendations of the Sub-committee on Statistics

Country reports (Agenda item 8.3)

42. Under this agenda item, the following 23 countries presented a summary of their national reports: Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Tanzania, Togo, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Swaziland, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The Secretariat supplemented the presentations with a synthesis of the main issues.

Actions taken by the Sub-committee:

43. The Sub-committee:

a) Noted the issues raised which included: statistical system organization, user/producer relations, statistical activities, household surveys, challenges and prospects, data-dissemination practices, major users, contribution of improved statistical capabilities to the preparation of poverty-reduction strategy papers, major activities and current plans, donor relations and contributions and national priorities;

b) Noted also the efforts that had been made to diversify and improve the quality of statistical production and monitoring services in various areas, particularly with regard to household surveys, population censuses, poverty monitoring and national accounts;

c) Observed that there was an increased need for reliable statistics under the current development agenda. Cases in point were the statistical requirements for preparing the poverty-reduction strategy papers, the need to meet international recommendations and guidelines including the GDDS and requirements for harmonizing sub-regional integration schemes. The Sub-Committee also noted the efforts made by the countries to improve the institutional framework for statistical activities, organizational and coordination structures, especially producer and user relations in spite of prevailing shortcomings;

d) Emphasized the need for efforts to improve dissemination through the Internet and to use geographic information systems in data presentation. It noted also the recurrent problem of skilled manpower and management capacity;

e) Expressed concern over the fact that not much attention was paid to the high turnover of staff that was taking a toll on national responses to current needs and that in many countries, governments were not committed to statistical development;
f Noted the deficiencies in African statistical systems which persist in areas as vital as human and material resources, institutional capacities, coordination, harmonisation and standardisation.

Results of the Evaluation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in African in the 1990’s (AAPA) (Agenda item 8.4.1)

44. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following documents:


Report of the Tenth meeting of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/11. Add. 1)

Actions taken by the Sub-committee

45. The Sub-committee:


b. Noted that the AAPA completed its period of implementation at the end of the 1990s decade and that and that

c. the mandate of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development (CSD) has ended;

d. Noted also the reasons for the unsatisfactory implementation of the Plan of Action, in particular the failure to publicize and popularize it and the consequent absence of ownership of the Plan of Action at the national level, resource inadequacies and their continued decline;

e. Noted further that coordination of the statistical activities at the national, regional and international levels remained a serious concern;

f. Recommended that COMESA should be included in the list of the organizations mentioned in paragraph 27 of the evaluation report, in view of its important role in the promotion of the improvement of trade statistics;

g. Recommended also that paragraph 61 of the report be amended to indicate that several other African countries which were not included in the survey, are currently implementing the GDDS;
h. Expressed concern on the existence of several plans of action in some African countries and emphasized the need to integrate them into a common framework;

i. Emphasized the need for a framework or a new plan of action to carry forward the principles of the AAPA;

j. Underscored the important contribution of institutions of higher learning to statistical capacity building and the need to carefully review the problems they are facing with a view to strengthening them, in particular through the establishment of a Trust Fund which would provide fellowships to African statistical training centres;

k. Urged African governments to allocate a higher and significant proportion of their national budgets to statistical development;

l. Endorsed the evaluation report with the amendments cited above.

**The way forward (Agenda item 8.4.2)**

46. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following documents:

Report of the Tenth meeting of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development (CASD) (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/11/Add.1); and

The Way Forward (Open discussion on the next steps of the process of strengthening statistical development in Africa for the next decade) - (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/11/Add.2))

47. The Sub-committee also had before it a powerpoint presentation by the secretariat on the Way Forward as a follow-up to the assessment of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s

**Actions taken by the Sub-committee**

48. The Sub-committee:

a. Noted:
   
   i. The outcome of the electronic discussion which had been conducted in August 2001 on the subject;
   
   ii. The very low degree of participation by statisticians from African statistical institutions;
   
   iii. The thrust of discussion which had focused on the type of regional action to be pursued in future, the role of ECA in that event, how to help countries to achieve ownership of regional initiatives;
iv. The proposed new mechanisms and structures, namely: (i) a new plan of action or a framework or guiding principles for African statistical development in the next decade using the outcomes of the assessment of the AAPA as well as emerging data requirements; (ii) the establishment of an Africa chapter of the PARIS21 consortium; and (iii) of an Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa.

b expressed its support for the recommended machinery and structure namely:

i. The adoption of a framework for African statistical development over the next decade;

ii. The African chapter of PARIS21 consortium, and

iii. The Advisory Board on African Statistical Development.

c Expressed concern over the insufficiency of human resources, high mobility and the high rate of attrition of African statisticians from national institutions which was perceived as inimical to the implementation of national programmes;

d Noted also the terms of reference used by the Sub-committee on information and communications technology, similar to the one proposed for consideration by the statistics Sub-committee. The ICT organs include an Advisory Board (ATAC), a forum of donors and other partners (PICTA), a follow up and evaluation programme (SCAN-ICT).

e Invited Donors to assist national statistical institutions in meeting financial constraints and in supporting national capacity building of those institutions so that they could carry out research in the statistical field and participate actively in international fora on statistical concepts, norms and standards.

f Emphasized that although all the AAPA objectives were not achieved, care should be exercised in interpreting the results of the evaluation of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for statistical development in Africa, as remarkable progress was recorded by some national institutions under the plan;

g Recommended that:

i. the activities undertaken by all the actors working towards statistical development in Africa should be coordinated in order to, on the one hand reduce the adverse effects of dispersion and duplication actions, which are to a large extent due to conflicts of interest, and on the other ensure a rational and efficient distribution of the resources allocated for statistical development in Africa;
ii. There should be effective ownership of new initiatives by member States and policy-makers, if need be, with the establishment of advocacy groups to support the participation of the different actors and the new mechanisms and structures;

iii. The relations between ECA and PARIS21 should be clearly defined.

iv. With regard to the Advisory Board, there should be a clarification of the following aspects: its mandate; the role and responsibilities of national statistical institutions, subregional institutions like AFRISTAT and regional institutions and the objectives and follow-up and evaluation mechanisms of its recommendations;

v. Member States should be closely associated with the establishment of the Board and with the formulation of the Terms of Reference and the framework for statistical development in Africa;

vi. Users should be represented in the Board;

vii. Appropriate Mechanisms for the coordination of producers of statistics should be established at all levels;

viii. The Africa chapter of PARIS21 should be defined at the national level;

ix. Capacities for negotiation through preparation of plans, strategic frameworks and guiding principles for the development of statistics should be strengthened as these elements are instruments of transparency;

x. a greater use should be made of the sub-regional institutions operating in the field to ensure an effective and a speedy implementation of the new initiatives envisaged; and

xi. An enlarged consultation mechanism should be established at the regional level and with partners.

Assessment of the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) in Africa (Agenda item 8.5)

49. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following document:

Assessment of the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) in Africa (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/12)

Actions taken by the Sub-committee:
50. The Sub-committee:

a  Noted:

i. The methodologies used to assess the implementation of SNA93 in Africa and the results of the survey conducted to that effect

ii. The low response rate, which was due to the reluctance of national statistical services to respond to this type of survey;

iii. The poor level of transfer of technical knowledge to national experts by visiting experts and lack of sustainability in the actions taken to this effect;

iv. Persistent lack of financial and human resources to enable effective actions for the implementation of the 1993 SNA;

v. The reluctance of the authorities to fully utilize the data produced within the framework of the 1993 SNA, due to the change in concepts and additional details leading to the sharp increase in the value of the aggregates;

b  Expressed concern at the inadequate assistance provided by ECA to African countries in the implementation of the 1993 SNA;

c  Emphasized that the implementation of the 1993 SNA requires extensive details such that the proposed timeframe of 15 months for the publication of the data is hard to attain, since the basic data are not easy to obtain;

d  Recommended the establishment of a mechanism at the national and regional level for monitoring the implementation of the 1993 SNA.

ECA database management and development activities (Agenda item 8.6.1)

51. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following document:

Report on ECA database management development activities (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/14).

Actions taken by the Sub-committee

52. The Sub-committee took note of the report
The use of database and statistical information system as support for decision-making
(Agenda item 8.6.2)

53. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following document:

Use of database and statistical information system as a tool for decision-making.  
(E/ECA/DISD/CODII.2/16)

54. The Sub-committee noted:

   a. The latest developments that had taken place in the field of decision-making;

   b. The synergies between decision-making and new information and communication technologies and between decision-making and geographic information systems;

   c. The proposal to launch an initiative called “Statistics as a support for decision making” which would aim, inter alia, at providing assistance for the harmonization of the sectoral indicators and their analytical dimensions at the national, subregional, regional and regional levels, and launching similar initiatives at the level of subregional institutions like ECOWAS, UMA, CEMAC and SADC; and

   d. The technical specifications of the second generation LDB, (live database) as well as the World Bank’s readiness to assist countries and institutions in acquiring the tool.

55. The sub-committee recommended that:

   a. There should be a correct and rational definition of the statistical function in order to tone it down to decision-making initiatives that go beyond the primary role of the statistician;

   b. There should be a wide dissemination of the progress achieved in the establishment of the Live Database in Africa initiated by the World Bank and which fits in well with the model presented;

   c. The Statistical Capacity Building Trust Fund managed by the World Bank on behalf of donors should be used to improve equipment and statistical staff capacities in national institutions;
The model presented should be implemented in order to integrate meta-data, centralize databases to make them form a single system, cross micro-data and strengthen the reliability of safety systems.

**Presentation of the UNICEF Childinfo database (Agenda item 8.6.3)**

56. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it a presentation of the database made by a representative of UNICEF.

**Actions taken by the Sub-committee:**

57. The Sub-committee recommended that the database should be adapted to the current realities prevailing in member States.

**International cooperation and inter-agency-coordination and liaison in the area of statistics (Agenda item 8.7)**

58. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following document:

International cooperation and inter-agency-coordination and liaison in the area of statistics (E/ECA/DISD/CODI./17).

**Actions taken by the Sub-committee**

59. The Sub-committee:

a. Noted with interest the information provided by the representative of the World Bank on the establishment at the global level of a Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building;

b. Noted also the existence of a multilateral cooperation agreement in the area of statistics among Portuguese speaking African countries and the launching of common statistical development programmes with the support of the Portuguese government;

c. Recommended that indicators on food security and agricultural statistics should be duly taken into account while redefining national priorities in the area of statistical development in African countries;

d. Recommended further that due consideration should be given to the issues pertaining to the organization and management of national statistical systems in particular the definition of the roles of the various statistical organs (national and sectoral) and the establishment of efficient coordination mechanisms for statistical activities;
c  Emphasized the need to integrate statistical programmes into the national development plans of African countries;

f  Emphasized also that promotion of south-south cooperation should be a key element of international and regional assistance programmes in the area of statistics.

g  Requested bilateral and multilateral donor agencies as well as regional and subregional institutions to put special emphasis on training within the framework of their assistance programmes to African countries in the area of statistics;

Report of the working groups on strengthening statistical capacities for poverty monitoring (Agenda Item 8.8)

83. Under this agenda item the Sub-committee considered the recommendations of the Working group on Strengthening Statistical Capacity for Poverty Monitoring. A summary of the recommendations are presented at Annex -V.

84 The Sub-committee noted and endorsed the recommendations of the working group.

Follow-up to the first meeting of the Sub-committee on Statistics of the Committee on Development Information (CODI) (Agenda item 8.9)

85 The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following document:

Follow-up to the first meeting of the Sub-committee on statistics (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/13)

Actions taken by the Sub-committee:

86 The Sub-committee noted the report of the secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations of its first meeting.


87 The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following document:


Actions taken by the Sub-committee:
The Sub-committee:

(a) Noted the report of the secretariat on the implementation of its work programme;
(b) Noted also the statistical capacity building role of ECA;
(c) Emphasized that ECA should become a center of excellence as well as the key depository of all statistical information of Africa;
(d) Welcomed the proposed Advisory Board on African Statistical Development and stressed that it should comprise of people who had thorough knowledge of African statistics.
(e) Decided to review the Terms of Reference of the Advisory Board further and subsequently revised the Terms of Reference to ensure that the National Statistical Offices are adequately represented on the Board, that the Board meets annually and that the membership of the Board is established at 15 members. The Terms of Reference of the Board as revised are presented in Annex III:

Any other business (Agenda item 8.11)

The Sub-committee noted the following:

(a) That the African Commission for Agriculture Statistics (AFCAS) is scheduled to meet in Pretoria from 27 to 30 November 2001 for its 17th session. AFCAS is an FAO’s statutory body which meets bi-annually; its last meeting was held in Conakry in June 1999. The meeting will be preceded by a technical workshop from 23 to 26 of November on good practices and statistical tools in the field of food and agricultural statistics. Official invitations will be sent to the countries according to FAO procedures.

(b) That Côte d'Ivoire will host the conference of the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) in Abidjan in August 2004.

(c) The announcement by the secretariat that year 2001’s theme of the African Statistics Day is: “Transforming Africa’s Economies: The role of statistical information” and that the Secretariat has taken the required measures so that the organisation of this year’s events may be timely. The Sub-Committee however expressed concern about the organisation of the African Statistics Day for which the information and the communication materials (theme, press release, posters) are not available in timely for the countries to adequately prepare the celebration’s events.
Closing session (Agenda item 8.12)

90 The Sub-committee adopted its report, a draft resolution and Terms of Reference of the Advisory Board on African Statistical Development for submission to the Conference of Ministers (See Annexes II and III respectively).

91 The Chairman thanked the participants for their work and closed the session.

Recommendations of the Sub-committee on Geoinformation

Policy Issues (Agenda Item 9.4)

92 In this agenda item, four papers were presented, namely: the future orientation of GI activities in Africa; a geographic data facility for Africa; economics of Geoinformation; and economics of Environmental Information systems.

93 In the ensuing discussion the following questions were raised and responded to:

The role of private sector and
where and what they should be involved in:

The issue of moving from paper to digital – There was a need to understand the power of maps even in digital form;

As priorities lie somewhere else there was a need to bring up proper arguments to governments and policy makers in order to make Geoinformation a central issue;

How could senior government officials (technocrats) convince policy makers. It was noted that sensitisation was essential at the highest level of governments.

There was need to co-ordinate development projects at country level and to integrate geographic information components.

94 Participants expressed the following concerns:

- Information provided at regional level is not sufficient enough to satisfy the needs at national and local levels. Therefore, it is important to improve the existing institutions instead of creating new ones;

- Though there is a need for some regional settings, concerns were voiced on their appropriate management as countries are already facing enormous problems. Moreover, national and community based information was necessary;
• The pricing policy and cost recovery aspects were crucial for institutions involved in Geoinformation in Africa and should be explored within the framework of spatial data infrastructure development.

95 The following recommendations were made:

• As ECA has accessibility to policy makers, the issue of proper funding for Geoinformation institutions should be advocated through the Commission;
• There is an urgent need for building a sustainable spatial data infrastructure;
• National mapping agencies should be allowed to compete with a private sector for value added products if fair competition is guaranteed.

**Technical Issues (Agenda Item 9.5)**

**New Trends and Developments (Agenda Item 9.5.1)**

96 Three papers were presented namely:

New Trends and Development in Cartography, by ICA
Developments in the Acquisition of Spatial Data from imagery, by ISPRS
Interactive approaches to timely data provision, by USGS.

97 A question was raised regarding the participation of African countries in ICA activities. It was reported that ICA sponsors African students to participate in its activities and training. It was also hoped that by convening the ICA Conference in Durban, many African countries and experts would participate.

98 The key discussion issues centered on:

Justification of high investment in mapping activities. It was agreed that the awareness on the importance of mapping data should be created at the highest level in Government. Also Geoinformation should be elevated to the level of a national infrastructure.

The issue of mapping activities by international agencies in Africa was raised and discussed. It was noted that their activities were not known or co-ordinated. It was recommended that ECA should co-ordinate and disseminate their activities.
Spatial Data Infrastructures (Agenda Item 9.5.2)

99 Five presentations were made:

Evolution of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI), by the GSDI/FGDC Steering Committee.

Growth and evolution of the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americans (PCIDEA), by the PCIDEA Steering Committee.

Africover by FAO.

The UNEP.dot.NET and the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG), by UNEP.

Applications: Case Studies (Agenda Item 9.6)

100 Under this agenda item the following papers were presented:

An example of Geoinformation development within an operational institutional framework, by Côte d'Ivoire

Application and interpretation of participatory approaches and GIS in Land use planning, by LUPO/Ethiopia

African - German Cupertino, by GTZ

101 Concern was raised on the appropriateness of use of the names “Cartography” and “Remote Sensing”, vs. the name “Geoinformation”. It was noted that the first two refer to concrete disciplines, whereas the latter has a holistic meaning embracing all the disciplines of Geoinformation.

102 After the presentation on African-German Cupertino, the meeting has informed of a workshop on the North African Reference Frame (NAFREF) held early this year in Algeria and the status of implementation of the project.


103 After receiving the report by ECA, questions were raised concerning:

communication problems between ECA and national and regional institutions:
access to ECA data bases
the replacement of the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa by the Sub-committee on Geoinformation of CODI. Several delegates expressed their wish to see the Regional Cartographic Conference reinstated.
The required clarifications were provided. On communication problems, it was found convenient that the national institutions designate a focal point for ECA Geoinformation activities.

**Recommendations of the Sub-committee on Information and Communication Technology including Library**

**Briefing on ADF99 and follow-up of the recommendations of the first meeting of the sub-committee on Information and Communication Technologies** (Agenda Item 7.3)

The session began by ECA’s briefing on ADF’99 outcomes and a follow up to the recommendations of the first meeting of CODI.

40. The Chairman of the African Technical Advisory Committee presented the report of the Committee’s work.

b The Sub-Committee made the following recommendations:

- It was recommended that there should be a coordinating mechanism on ICT projects within the continent.
- It was recommended that there should be a coordinating and monitoring mechanisms on the various ICT projects within the countries (a sort of National CODIs).
- There should be a feedback mechanism between National CODIs and the main CODI meeting.
- It was recommended that there is a need to introduce an electronic bulletin service to communicate the various activities of CODI and utilize the existing AISI ListServ.
- It was recommended that there should be a significant African representation at high level in international fora.
- It was suggested that African countries should be sensitized on ethical related issues resulting from the use of ICTs.
- An impact analysis on the use of ICTs by Africans was suggested.
- It was proposed that there should be a good marketing strategy to sensitize African users on the potential of ICTs.
- It was recommended that African countries should be advised on engaging themselves in hardware manufacturing in order to ensure a wide use of ICTs.

**Presentation of the report of the African Technical Advisory Committee on the African Information Society Initiative (AISI)** (Agenda Item 7.4)

Report of the session "Policy and regulatory issues in the development of Africa's Infrastructure: The need to integrate Geo-Information within the NICIs”

42. The sub-committee considered the following issues:

- Pricing of the geographical publications
- The following challenges were identified for the development of spatial data infrastructure (SDI):
- Lack of policy and awareness
- Lack of standardized data sets
- Poor telecommunication and utility infrastructure in developing countries
- Lack of qualified human resources and financial resources

60. The following recommendations were made as regards to policy and regulatory issues related to Geo information and NICIs:

- It was recommended that SDI should be considered and categorized as part of a wider infrastructure aspects like roads, telecommunications etc. SDI should be recognized as a national resource and must be updated and improved appropriately.
- Development of SDI need to be an integral part of the national Information and communication policies, strategies and plans and policies and strategies aiming at developing SDI should take into account the cultural and socio-economic situations in each country.
- Although some participants felt that the development of SDI can commence without having a policy, others felt that there should be a general policy framework that should address the following issues:
  - Cooperation between public and private sector
  - Formulation of flexible policy that addresses the rapidly changing needs and technology
  - Involvement of all users in defining and testing expected products
  - Formulation of vertical and horizontal strategy that ensures its development at national, regional and local levels.
  - The need to undertake research to resolve the problem of data semantics.
  - The need to develop e-market strategies for SDI and matching policies on pricing to rights to access and use of SDI data. Considering the complexity of pricing SDI, it was recommended that detailed research should be undertaken on this matter.

Progress Report on NICI implementation; evaluation of the impact of NICI in Africa: the Scan-ICT Project (Agenda Item 7.5)

61. The presenter discussed progress and impact of the National Information and Communications Infrastructure (NICI) Plans, policies and Strategies and Scan-ICT: Operational issues and progress

62. Presentation made on the Scan-ICT methodology by representative of IDRC Acacia program and following this African countries involved in the Scan project were asked to report on the status of the project in their respective countries. Accordingly, brief reports were presented by Ethiopia, Mozambique, Morocco, Senegal, and Uganda.

63. The following recommendations were made:

- It was recommended that the NICI process should include issues such as infoethics, multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace.
- The ATAC was advised to lobby governments to change the frequency allocation currently employed in African countries so that more frequency can be accommodated.
- The importance of the need for commitment from policy/decision makers in the NICI policy and plan development exercise was noted.
- ECA should also extend its follow up to graduates of the CISCO and similar initiatives trained in locations outside its headquarters. It should also explore ways of providing ICT training in other areas such as software development in collaboration with the private sector such as Oracle and partners like the USAID.
- The Scan-ICT project was urged to come up with indicators that would reflect the African situation and facts.
- It was noted that the indicators in the Scan-ICT project should be linked with issues covered in the NICI policies.
- The Scan-ICT project should measure the web sites created in local languages and the integration of ICTs in local communities.

**Presentation on Country Papers (Agenda Item 7.x)**

64. Presentations were made by the following countries and organizations: Nigeria, Uganda, Morocco, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Africa, University of Pennsylvania, Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) regarding various ICT activities in their respective countries and organizations.

**Report of the session on “presentation and evaluation of ICT applications against the initiatives of the ADF ’99” (Agenda Item 7.6)**

65. Three presentations were made on the following topics: ICT applications in education, ICT applications in health and ICT applications in commerce and trade.

66. The following recommendations were made:

- More information on practical examples of applications and best practices in Africa with respect to the VarsityNet and OOSYNET programmes and projects needs to be made available. Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI)’s online distance education programme can be taken as an example.

- Apart from advanced applications in all the identified sectors, different alternative options should be proposed that would take into consideration the African socio-economic conditions. Applications that have been identified in the strategy documents such as telemedicine, expert systems, disseminating healthcare information to communities through community radios and telecentres should be effectively used to address Africa’s basic problems in the health sector - fighting infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

- Member states are urged to co-ordinate, co-operate and hold consultation meetings at national level regarding the implementation of various ICT programmes in all sectors. Particularly sectoral ministries should play a leading role in this regard.

- The UN should take the ICT issue as a cross-cutting issue covering all sectors rather than being a sector on its own, and reflect this in the country programmes. Co-ordination is also required at the UN level to harmonise and strategize programmes and projects at country level. For this purpose, the UN ICT Task Force and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) programme needs to be strengthened.
• ECA has to develop a system or web portal whereby African products and services can be catalogued for easy access and promoting African products and services for international market through e-commerce applications. In this connection, the experience and system developed by PeopleLink can be considered as a model.

• Africa needs to be adequately represented and have a common voice at global fora to reflect its concerns on ICT governance and application of ICTs to harness its socio-economic development. For this to happen, it is imperative that member States have to work together and formulate and implement strategies aiming at raising the negotiation power of the continent in international forums.

• ECA is requested to organise and conduct an African Trade Forum whereby African policy makers and other stakeholders meet to discuss trade issues related to policies and regulatory aspects of e-commerce applications including the governance process of e-commerce initiatives in Africa.

Report of the Expert Preparatory meeting on knowledge management and the African Virtual Library and Information Network Initiative (AVLIN) (Agenda Item 7. xx)

67. The report (ECA document no.: L/ECA/DISD/COD1.2/31) provided information on the expert preparatory group meeting on knowledge management and the African Virtual Library and Information Network (AVLIN) held on 3 September 2001. The meeting was attended by Forty-nine experts from 16 countries and five international organizations. Two background papers were presented:

• Knowledge management for decision making, tools, institutions and paradigms (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/10); and
• ii) Building the African Virtual Library and Information Network: concepts, issues, challenges and opportunities (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/9), were presented at the meeting.

68. The experts noted with appreciation the ongoing role of ECA in promoting effective information management policies and practices in the African region.

69. The main recommendations of the workshop were:

• ECA’s activities should be expanded to include awareness and capacity building in knowledge management.
• Libraries and related information centres; professional, scientific and trade associations, and other related “communities of practice”; government agencies; and groupings of civic society should be involved in the development of national knowledge systems.
• After noting that AVLIN is long overdue, it was recommended that a steering committee be set up immediately to drive the process of its development and implementation.
• ECA should provide the seed money for the immediate take-off of the project.
• During the first phase of AVLIN, efforts should be made to identify and coordinate related activities being undertaken on the continent to avoid duplication of efforts and resources.
• AVLIN should be a sustainable project, and therefore it should not depend entirely on donor funding. Participating libraries should, as much as possible, be supported with national and institutional budgets for their AVLIN related activities.
Participation in AVLIN should be on a voluntary basis and institutions intending to join AVLIN will be expected to meet basic requirements that will be formulated later.

AVLIN should lay emphasis on the development of relevant professional competencies as its success will depend on the technical and managerial capacities of information professionals in the participating institutions.

ECA should initiate knowledge management activities to leverage the knowledge assets of the institution and serve as a training ground for African institutions.

AVLIN project activities need to commence with capacity building in the field of knowledge management through appropriate awareness raising, training, policy analysis and advocacy, and development of institutional projects.

Implementation of AVLIN should be regarded as an integral part of the infrastructure for enhancing access to development information and knowledge resources available on the continent and elsewhere.

70. The ICT Sub-Committee discussed the report and accepted it. Further, it unanimously decided to give ECA the mandate to appoint the members of AVLIN Steering Committee.

Report on ECA Programme of Work in ICT and libraries (Agenda Item 7.xxx)


72. The following recommendations were put forwards:

- It was recommended that ECA continue working in promoting ICT for development in Africa and strengthen its efforts in getting the commitments of member States and the global community to make the necessary resources available to ICTs. It was also noted that strategies in electronic commerce in Africa take the global IT slow-down into consideration.
- It was recommended that the ECA should continue with its activities in the field of sensitization of policy-makers and donors to ensure that the development projects of the ICTs are considered as priority.
- It was recommended that International Organizations, as well as donors should give priority to the development of the ICTs.
- It was recommended that the Economic Commission for Africa should take charge of the management of AVLIN.

Any other business (Agenda Item 7.9)

73. Under this agenda item, the following points were raised:

- The issue of the cost of the ICTs should be reconsidered by the policy-makers of African countries owing to the fact that the paradigm for the cost of the ICTs has changed thus encouraging investments in the ICTs, in an enabling and competitive political environment particularly in the field of education.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) briefed participants on a new initiative “the Health Inter-Network” and encouraged interested participants to take part in this initiative which gives access to free medical care through the ICTs.
Adoption of the report and closing session (Agenda Item 7.10)

74. The sub-committee adopted its report with minor modifications.
The Third Session of the Committee on Development Information (CODI III)

Recommendations of the CODI Plenary

Key introductory panel: “Information and Governance” (agenda item 3)

14. Participants recommended as follows:

- There is a need to enhance citizens’ right to information;
- There should be indexing of variables and comparison among countries;
- Geoinformation initiatives will require private-public partnerships;
- Countries should advance the use of information to promote self-governing; and
- Accountability structures need to be improved.

Decentralization, community empowerment and the role of civil society (agenda item 4)

20. The following actions were recommended:

- There is a need to develop codes, standards and indicators of good governance at the local, national, subregional and continental levels based on a bottom-up, participatory and multidisciplinary process;
- There is a need to build capacity on the use of ICT to increase the necessary capacities within the chieftaincy institution, as this would enable stakeholders of traditional governance to fit into Ghana’s modern governance system; and
- Networking and connectivity are needed for monitoring and sharing experiences, information, knowledge and expertise.

Facilitating transparent public financial management and accountability (agenda item 5)

24. Participants agreed that lack of standardized procedures and manuals, shortage of skilled human resources, poor data acquisition and storage, shortage of ICT facilities and inadequate public-private partnerships needed to be addressed. It was also noted that there is a need to develop human resource capacity and both short and long-term training on information and information management.

Involving the private sector (agenda item 6)
The ensuing discussions made the following recommendations:

- There was an increase in the number of participants from the private sector in the successive CODI meetings and efforts should be made to increase the participation of the private sector during CODI IV;
- There is a need to establish a framework for public-private partnership (PPP) in Africa;
- The private sector should be given a role in statistical production and should implement cost-recovery operations in its engagement with public enterprises;
- There is a need for planning of governance activities and running the public sector as a business in order to make it competitive;
- African institutions need to be strengthened, particularly in areas such as the revitalization of national archives;
- Access to institutional data needs standardizing through independent commissions;
- There is a need to overhaul existing private-public sector partnerships on ICTs.

**Recommendations of the Sub-committee on Statistics**

**Statistics and governance (agenda item 8.3)**

51. Actions recommended:

- Measurement procedures must deal with both positive and negative aspects of governance;
- Statisticians should carefully review the Declaration of African Heads of States and Government and refer to it as a legal framework in developing indicators on governance at the national and regional levels;
- A working group on peer review mechanisms should be established to assess statistical capacity and to deal with conceptual and methodological issues pertaining to the development of indicators on governance, as well as the identification of comparative advantages of NSOs and other components of national statistical systems;
- National statistical systems should be strengthened by allocating adequate financial, human and material resources to the various components involved in the collection and compilation of statistics and indicators on governance. NSOs should play a key role in this process;
- ECA should assist in the establishment, at the country level, of the legal framework needed to ensure proper coordination of the activities of the various entities dealing with governance issues;
- Should the need arise, existing statistical regulations should be revised in order to take into account emerging data needs, including those pertaining to governance; and
- Member States should adopt a process for assessing their statistical capacity. Initially, volunteer countries should undertake to test and adopt tools and processes for the peer
review of statistical capacity as part of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) commitment supported by an expert group provided by ECA and PARIS21.

Country reports (agenda item 8.4)

58. Actions recommended

- Country reports should be prepared and forwarded to ECA well in advance and the Subcommittee, so as to enable a fruitful exchange of experiences among the NSOs and to devote sufficient time for review;
- ECA should work out a standard format on the basis of the outline adopted by the Subcommittee at its second session. This format should be tailored to the concerns, themes and agenda of future sessions of CODI;
- Country reports may be supplemented by country profiles;
- ECA should synthesize the country reports and selected countries could be invited to make presentations on good country practices;
- Other components of the national statistical system, such as central banks and sectoral agencies should be included in the reporting process;
- Statistical training centres should also report on their activities during future sessions of the Subcommittee; and
- Country reports should be posted on the web sites of the NSOs in countries where such dissemination facilities exist.

The 1993 System of National Accounts in Africa (agenda item 8.6)

64. Actions recommended

- An implementation strategy should be adopted at the country level;
- African governments should provide adequate financial and human resources to NSOs; and
- Specialized training programmes should be encouraged.

Policy issues (agenda item 8.7)

The establishment of the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA) (agenda item 8.7.1)

65. Actions recommended:

- The board would be launched soon after CODI III; and
- In view of the growing demand for statistics, ABSA would be expected to work out a strategy on accelerating statistical development in Africa.

Report of the Working Group on Statistics and Governance (agenda item 8.7.2)
68. The meeting noted the importance of involving NSOs in the electoral process at country level and recommended that NSOs should play a more efficient role in the electoral process by providing government departments in charge of elections with all the statistical data needed to ensure the smooth organization of this process without violating confidentiality principles.

69. The subcommittee adopted the draft report with amendments.

**ECA statistical activities (agenda item 8.9)**

**Report on ECA statistical activities during 2002-2003 and the programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005 (agenda item 8.9.1)**

72. Actions recommended:

- ECA should re-establish its leadership role in the promotion of statistical development in Africa; and
- Soon after its establishment, the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA) should work out concrete proposals on how best to proceed to strengthen the statistics function at ECA.

**Recommendations of the Sub-committee on Geoinformation**

**Geographic information and governance (agenda item 9.3)**

81. Actions recommended:

- Cost-sharing can be done between producers and users, using cheaper methods of data production, taking advantage of data produced by other data producers;
- Geoinformation as a technical term should be given other non-technical aliases that reflect the interest of governments and donors in the new paradigm of information for good governance. Such aliases like UNICEF's term “Community-focused development monitoring and evaluation system” should be used;
- Geoinformation should be demystified, and related to other forms of information that is widely appreciated, such as ICT and statistics;
- Awareness and education among decision-makers is needed in relation to the role of geoinformation in governance and development;
- Geoinformation needs to be enhanced and valued-added products that make geoinformation more visible and appreciated by a wider community should be developed.
- Geoinformation management should be introduced in educational and training institutions; and
- Strengthening of institutional capacities should be reconciled with availability of data.

**Progress reports (agenda item 9.4)**
82. Actions recommended:

- Participants recommended that Africa must take ownership of its future by developing its own SDI. Furthermore, ECA should create an enabling environment for the exchange and sharing of information among the secretariat, CODI's executive working group and national focal points. It further urged member States to take advantage of the country spaces provided by ECA’s clearinghouse node.

Recommendations of the Sub-committee on Information and Communication Technologies and Library

Report of the African Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) on the implementation of AISI

The following recommendations were proposed:

- Each member will coordinate specific thematic areas and all members will contribute to the production of the series;

- ECA owned the copyright to all materials generated out of the series.

- An action plan on implementing the proposal should be developed and each member would be expected to provide input to the process by the first week of December 2003. (Thandi Mbvundula agreed to coordinate this activity);

- An incentive package should be made available. Activities would be linked to the implementation of the International e-Development Resources Network (IeDRN) and the Connectivity Centre for Africa (CCA), which are proposed collaborations between ECA and the Canadian Government; and

- An incubator model should be developed as an essential component of the process (Otema Yirenkyi produced an outline).

Report of African Stakeholders Network (agenda item 7.3.4)

35. Participants discussed the presentations and recommended the following actions:

- There is a need for written recommendations to the Bamako Bureau on Africa’s preparation in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process in general and participation of women and CSOs in particular;

- There is a need to address African oral tradition by addressing language, local content and indigenous knowledge issues given the wealth of untapped information among African communities, particularly in the context of the AVLIN project;

- The status of national consultations on ICT strategies should be reviewed and linked to the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and WSIS processes;

- The status of ICT indicators in the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals should be reviewed.

- Operational modalities for using ATAC, AVLIN and CSOs for providing assistance to member States should be examined;
• Performance indicators for the implementation of AISI need to be developed;
• There should be a balanced participation of civil society in AISI initiatives at national, regional and subregional levels;
• There is a need to build and strengthen infrastructure to improve access and institutional capacity;
• Promotion of geoinformation systems is important; and
• There is a need to establish reliable and comprehensive African databases on ICT related issues.

ICTs in support of governance: opportunities and challenges (agenda item 7.4)
Discussions on challenges and issues arising from the keynote speech and panel discussion on “Information and Governance” yielded the following recommended actions:

- African countries should adopt free open source software as an important tool in promoting ICT and good governance;
- There is a need for participation of all stakeholders in formulation, development and implementation of ICT strategies and plans and this represents a good governance mechanism in itself;
- ECA should promote dialogue among civil society organizations, governments, international organizations and the private sector on national ICT strategies and plans and ensure the participation of all stakeholders;
- E-governance needs to be promoted at the macroeconomic and social levels;
- The consistent use of information systems for decision-making purposes and the decentralization of services and resources is needed;
- Special funds for competitive educational systems that support ICTs and governance should be created;
- A serious evaluation of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) and their impact on economic performance, armed conflicts and weak ICT infrastructure is needed; and
- There is a need to redefine capacity-building to include the participation of women.

ICT and governance (agenda item 7.5.3)

Actions recommended:

- GKP should address the use of radio for information dissemination, which is widely used in Africa by civil society to reach the grassroots;
- African countries should not only be consumers of ICTs but producers;
- There is a need to strengthen strategies to use ICT as an enabler of socio-economic development and as a sector to create job opportunities and contribute to development of the overall economy;
- ICTs alone cannot deliver, but combined with critical success factors, ICTs can make the desired impact on development;
- There is a need for sensitizing governments on emerging trends in ICTs;
- There is a need to build the capacity of women in high-level decision making;
- Local languages should be promoted on the Internet;
- There is a need to link NICIs with telecommunication regulatory frameworks in Africa;
- Member States must ensure the independence of regulators and support harmonization of regulatory regimes;
- ECA should publicize the ePol-NET initiative to stakeholders in Africa;
- ECA should work on gender mainstreaming and develop indicators for gender-desegregated ICT data;
- The SCAN-ICT project should be expanded to include other African countries; and
• There is a need to review ICT indicators in the light of the Millennium Development Goals and explicitly address Millennium Development Goals in the NICI development process.

**Information and knowledge development (agenda item 7.5.4)**

44. **Recommendations made:**

- Recommendations made by participants attending the open source software workshop should be integrated in the national development programmes of member States and ECA should use its convening power for this purpose;
- ECA's subregional offices should be more involved in the NICI development process of countries that they are serving;
- In view of the identifiable significant primary role of the library for the expert collation, organization and dissemination of knowledge, especially in the new ICTs environment, libraries should be considered as necessary components of e-governance in Africa;
- ECA should develop projects focusing on developing infrastructure and human skills, including digital capacities of African libraries;
- ECA should commission a study on liberalization and regulation of ICTs in Africa;
- Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA) should undertake activities to publicize NEPAD, as an overall framework of African Development;
- Recommendations adopted during the preparatory meeting to the WSIS organized by the Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie (OIF) on “Women and the information society”, April 2003, should be implemented, particularly those dealing with democracy, good governance and peace. ECA, which participated at this meeting, should provide support for its member States in their efforts to mainstream gender issues in ICT policies and plans and e-governance-related applications;
- ECA, with the support of AVLIN, should strengthen its capacity-building activities for African librarians in their use of ICTs;
- ECA should ensure that local content that uses local languages and oral tradition should be taken into account in its activities aimed at developing information and knowledge resources;
- ECA should take African youth into account as one of its key target groups among its activities and ensure that they are the recipients of traditional and indigenous knowledge;
- ECA, with the support of its member States, should develop Africa-wide sectoral portals reflecting African values and information needs;
- Recommendations from the open source workshop organized by the Economic Commission for Africa and the Agence Intergouvernementale de la francophonie, 10–11 May 2003 should be annexed to the CODI III recommendations and special focus should be given to:
  • The adoption of legal and regulatory measures promoting the use of open source software in public administration in Africa;
- The establishment of a North-South and South-South partnership model based on mutual benefits for the deployment of a software industry in Africa;
- An inter-African collaboration and networking mechanism should be set up to promote open source software and establish a portal on success stories;
- Civil society should sensitize and organize awareness activities on the need to create associations promoting the use of open source network and organize capacity-building programmes on open source software utilization before the second phase of the World Summit on Information Society;

- Governments should play a key role in promoting open source software by:
  - Introducing appropriate policies and legislation;
  - Stimulating the local software industry; and
  - Lowering entry barriers for various kinds of new businesses into the IT industry.

- The Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA) should work with all stakeholders to ensure that open source is available as an affordable platform to engineer solutions that meet the needs of Africans.
- African governments should support FOSSFA to promote Africa as a hub for open source software development;
- ECA, with the support of the African Stakeholders Network (ASN), E-Pol-Net and AVLIN, must work in partnership with existing regional knowledge networks such as the Horn and East of Africa Regional Women’s Knowledge Network (HAWKNet) and Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) to strengthen regional information and knowledge portals by and for African women and youth;
- African youth must be empowered and involved in the processes that seek to establish Africa as a major partner in the information society; and
- Existing youth-led efforts and initiatives should be identified and encouraged in order to bridge the generation divide.
Resolutions of the Third Meeting of the Committee on Development Information

Resolutions of the Subcommittee on ICT

1. Accelerating the process of the formulation, development and implementation of NICI plans

*Noting* that:

- The African Information Society Initiative (AISI) action plan defines the importance of introducing and applying ICTs to improve public services and facilitate democratization processes, among others;
- An increasing number of countries have initiated the formulation process over the past years, while a number of countries are yet to initiate such processes; and
- E-governance and e-government are important sectoral applications within the framework of NICI plans in African countries;

*Recommends* that:

**Member States**

- Establish sensitization programmes for government to promote the development of NICIs and e-government projects;
- Strategize on the use of ICTs as an enabler to fully contribute to the socio-economic development and the creation of job opportunities;
- Promote better e-government in ensuring consistency in information systems across sectors; and
- Combine the ICTs with other development instruments for the desired impacts on development;

**ECA**

- Subregional offices increase their involvement in the NICI development processes, particularly in the area of e-governance; and
- Promotes ICT networks for African parliamentarians and helps increase their capacity to promote the development of e-governance at the parliamentarian level and enhance the participation of members of parliaments in the formulation and implementation of national ICT policies.

**CODI**

- Officially designates the Gambia as an AISI e-government model, which will consequently be evaluated and replicated in other African countries.

2. Promotion of participatory approaches

*Considering* that:

The participation of civil society, mass media, private sector and academia will ensure the successful formulation and development of NICI policies and plans;
Recommends that:

CODI requests that the Bamako Bureau on Africa’s preparation for WSIS take into account civil society and women’s participation, including other major concerns and ensure that Africa takes a common platform in the WSIS process;

Member States

- Promote dialogue with civil society and the private sector and provide support to ensure their participation in the formulation, development and implementation of ICT policies and plans;
- Take into account the participation of women in policy formulation, increase the capacity of women for decision making and develop a media programme for gender sensitization; and
- Encourage African youth in activities relating to the production and dissemination of knowledge resources, as well as ensure their full participation in the WSIS process;

ECA

- Support member States in mainstreaming gender issues in ICT policies and plans; and
- E-Pol-NET activities should be included and linked to the AISI Outreach Programme and other African-based ICT initiatives, such as IMPACT Africa that can strengthen information and knowledge sharing among member States.

3. Putting in place a mechanism to measure the progress in ICTs

Noting that:

There is a need to systematically collect baseline data, set indicators and monitor progress of the impact of ICTs on socio-economic development;

Recommends that:

Member States

1. Develop ICT indicators relevant to achieving AISI goals in line with the Millennium Development Goals in all African countries, using the SCAN-ICT framework; and
2. Give full support to Impact Africa to ensure the use of ICTs for measuring Millennium Development Goals and the PRSPs along with the SCAN-ICT;

ECA

- In collaboration with member States, develop gender indicators in ICTs and also aggregate data within the framework of SCAN-ICT;
- Together with partners, extend the SCAN-ICT project to include other African countries; and
- Create performance indicators for the implementation of AISI.

4. Improved content creation and assistance towards enabling African languages

Recognizing that:
• Local content and language capabilities are key to democratize access to information and knowledge for all in the continent; and
• African countries should not only be a consumer of ICTs but a producer of new technologies;

*Reiterates that:*  
member States  
• Involve the media in all issues of ICT and governance for development using appropriate local languages in disseminating information on ICTs for their effective participation in the governance process;

*ECA*  
• With the support of its member States should develop Africa-wide sectoral portals; and  
• Together with its partners support the development of local African languages for content creation through the effective appropriation of open source software for utilization in the governance process and to enable citizens to gain access to ICTs in general.

5. **Enhanced partnerships and collaboration**

*Considering that:*  
The number of ICT initiatives on the continent, the linkage and collaboration as well as sharing of experiences and lessons learned has been weak;  

*Recommends that:*  
*ECA*  
• Together with member States, establish national committees on NICIs, NEPAD and WSIS;  
• Operationalize AVLIN and intensify the participation of ATAC and civil society for providing assistance to member States;  
• In collaboration with partners, provide assistance to existing information and knowledge networks among different subregions, taking into consideration geography and balance; and  
• Together with GKP, should address the need for wider use of radio in Africa through CSOs in order to reach the grassroots;  

*The African Stakeholders Network (ASN):*  
• Should initiate ICT activities in member States with support from ECA.

6. **Enhanced role of libraries**

*Noting that:*  
Libraries can play a crucial role in promoting dissemination of knowledge and involvement of e-governance projects in Africa.  

*Reiterates that:*  
member States
• Develop appropriate training programmes for information professionals;

ECA
• Assist member States to develop infrastructure of African libraries and other information institutions;
• Support member States to promote African local content/indigenous knowledge, oral tradition with respect to information society development, particularly in the context of the AVLIN project; and
• Assist member States in undertaking baseline studies on the availability of information and library services within countries and ensure that AVLIN coordinates at the national level and with the other subcommittees – namely Geoinformation and Statistics.

7. Promotion of free and open source software

Noting that:
Free and open source software can provide cost-effective solutions to African member States and society;

Emphasizes that:
member States
• Adopt free and open source software as an important tool in promoting ICT and good governance;
• Play a key role in promoting open source software by:
  o Introducing appropriate policies and legislation;
  o Stimulating the local software industry;
  o Lowering entry barriers for various kinds of new businesses in the IT industry;
• Consider the political and economic security issues associated with the use of OSS and work with ECA to undertake research on how issues of national sovereignty can be safeguarded.

ECA
• Together with partners and member States establish an inter-African collaboration and networking mechanism to promote open source software and a portal site on success stories;
• Assist civil society to sensitize and organize awareness activities on the need to create associations promoting the use of open source network;
• Develop capacity-building programmes on open source software utilization for the development of ICT industry in Africa; and
• AVLIN and the other subcommittees should promote the use of OSS in their work.

8. Facilitating the public-private partnership (PPP)

Noting that:
The development of ICTs and their application in various sectors depend on the services and products offered by the private sector. The public sector has a key role to play in creating an enabling environment to ensure the development of a vibrant ICT industry.

_Recommends_ that member States:

- Encourage and license local telecom operators to invest in rural areas; and
- ECA should
- Establish a framework for public-private partnership (PPP) for Africa in the use of ICT-enabled equitable development.

9. **Rationalization of initiatives**

_Not only_ that:

There is a proliferation of programmes responding to the needs of ICT development in Africa;

_Recommends_ that member States, ECA and the international community:

- Promote and coordinate ICT initiatives to narrow the digital divide between Africa and the rest of the world with the objective of establishing a digital solidarity fund for Africa.

**Resolutions of the Subcommittee on Statistics**

10. **Peer review of statistical capacity**

_Accepting_ that:

Official statistics produced in accordance with the fundamental principles of official statistics are a necessary condition for good governance,

_Recommends_ that member States:

- Adopt a process for assessing the statistical capacity of member States. Initially, volunteer countries should undertake the testing and adoption of tools and processes for the peer review of statistical capacity for adoption as part of the NEPAD commitment support by an expert group provided by UNECA/PARIS21.

**Resolutions of the Subcommittee on Geoinformation**

11. **Integration of information policies and technologies across CODI**

_Not only_ that:

Catalogue service protocols have been developed by the library community to support the distributed search of digital and non-digital library resources, and cataloguing and metadata development expertise and policies exist within the library community;

Emerging spatial data infrastructures (SDI) are being developed to catalogue and to provide access to geographic information that use and extend Internet-based library search and retrieval standards;

Statistical information collection and management strategies reflect a dependence on locations that should be coordinated with geographic places as well as national
political subdivisions (subnational political boundaries) and be made accessible using common search methods;

Information and communication technologies (ICT) offer Internet services and the capacity to locate and apply data services in support of mission requirements and e-government; and

Library, geographic, statistical, and ICT communities operate somewhat autonomously but have potential for better integration of solutions, and that potential exists for redundant, incompatible solutions to be developed despite limited available resources;

**Recommends** that:

CODI should develop a coordinated task group to integrate and publish common policies and technical strategies for:

- Library applications;
- Metadata development;
- Geographic and statistical data and services;
- Standards-based information retrieval technologies; and
- ICT frameworks, portal, and e-government services designs in order to optimize access to development information.

12. **On public-private partnership (PPP)**

*Recognizing* that:

The development of the private sector has a positive impact on governance and the role it plays in improving the overall economy of the countries;

National agencies can enhance the production and management of geographic information goods and services by engaging the private sector in the various phases of the process.

*Recommends* that:

African countries should engage in public-private partnerships to collect and process the geographic information that is needed for the execution of development projects at local, subnational and national levels, following the principles of transparency and mutual trust;

Governments should include the private sector in all consultative processes related to national/local geoinformation policies and plans;

It is imperative that African countries should establish national committees on PPPs to advocate and advance appropriate and successful frameworks for PPP implementation.

13. **On data infrastructure**

*Recognizing* that:

The realization of the objectives of NEPAD, the Millennium Development Goals and WSSD will require a vast amount of geographic information, which, for the majority
of African countries, is not available and accessible in a usable form by governments and society;

SDIs are a robust response to the constraints that inhibit the availability, access and use of geoinformation;

Many African countries have made achievements in the establishment of NSDI, but there are still many countries with little progress in this sense;

Fundamental datasets are a crucial component of SDI and these are missing in most African countries;

**Resolves:**

To adopt the recommendations of the Pan African Workshop on a Permanent Committee for Africa, expanding the terms of reference of CODI-Geo to include the functions of the proposed Permanent Committee.

**Reiterates to member States:**

That they should give priority to the establishment of NSDIs, to fully participate in the Global Mapping Project, AFREF and to participate in and provide support for the activities of the Working Groups of CODI-Geo, which now has included the functions of a Permanent Committee on SDIs for Africa.

**Recommends that:**

- Africa must take ownership of its future by developing its own SDI;
- Donor-financed projects should be provided with framework data from governments and that all data resulting from a project should be produced, maintained and disseminated according to the principles of the NSDI. The negotiations of the terms of the loan should take this into account;
- Those agencies responsible for the implementation of AFREF should incorporate GI managers in the process;
- National agencies producers of geoinformation should give priority to digitize their analogue spatial data holdings, using published data models, following the principles of SDI.

14. **On funding for geoinformation**

**Noting** that:

- Information is crucial for good governance and should be made readily accessible to governments and communities;
- The current cost of GI to the end user is high and so discourages use for good governance;
- Production of GI is a capital intensive activity;
- That GI is now mature and marketable;

**Recommends** that:

- Governments should recognize GI production as an investment and as a national asset and, therefore, should increase the allocation of funds in their national budgets;
• CODI-Geo should facilitate the sourcing of funds in the development of SDI at all levels;
• Costs for maintaining data can be reduced by sharing them among producers and users, by proper cost-effective methods, and by utilizing data produced by other data producers.

15. **On awareness-raising**

*Noting* that:

• The way geoinformation is presented to non-experts makes it appear too technical and difficult to understand and appreciate;
• There is a lack of knowledge about how to utilize geoinformation in decision-making;

*Recommends* that:

• Key players in GI production and management at international, regional, and national levels should take measures in demystifying concept and use, and relate GI to other forms of information, such as statistics and ICT;
• That all the three CODI subcommittees (ICT, Stat, GEO) at national level should undertake concerted actions and work together, through the establishment of a national committee on development information in order to sensitize and educate policy-makers of the benefits and value of information for development and good governance;
• That national committees for spatial information be established.

16. **CODI-Geo support of data standards for NEPAD**

*Noting* that:

Many members of CODI-Geo are representatives of national mapping organizations within Africa and are familiar with and can advocate data provider requirements for Framework or Fundamental data themes. Vital development information is maintained by statistical, environmental, natural resources, and infrastructure management agencies within a country. Much of this information has a geographic context and is used in resource management practices by the government. These organizations may not be represented in CODI activities or yet participate in SDI activities. The availability of structured and documented Fundamental and Thematic data is critical to governance. The NEPAD initiative will require common data models and access methods that are supportive of multiple user needs.

*Recommends* that:

CODI should convene a multidisciplinary, multinational work group to formalize data models and access methods that address both data provider and consumer needs for geographic and statistical information in support of NEPAD.

17. **General**

*Considering* that:
Many of the recommendations and issues raised by the subcommittee on capacity-building, policy and coordination, and other aspects are already contained in previous resolutions of CODI;

Reiterates that:

All those concerned should ensure implementation of the recommendations and resolutions.
The Fourth Session of the Committee on Development Information (CODI IV)

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The CODI;

Considering that:

- information and knowledge have emerged as new economic resources and factors of global competitiveness;
- lack of access to information flows and knowledge systems and processes is in this context, itself a source of poverty;
- the only way out of Africa's predicament is thus to, urgently, achieve the goal of becoming a key player in the Information Society;

Fully aware that the global economy's transition to an information- and knowledge-based economy offers many opportunities to African countries which could enter this "new economy" by developing competitive advantages based on their history and on the substantive conditions with which they are familiar;

Noting that:

- the adoption of the African Information Society Initiative (AISI) in 1996 offers to Africa the necessary Framework to organise its path towards the information society;
- National Policy developments of various sectors of Information for Development, such as SDI, have been going independently from a national overall information policy;
- the African Union and New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) incorporate the development of information and ICTs as a key component in their Strategic Plan;

Considering further that:

- the Africa’s development partners are becoming increasingly aware of the need to pay more attention to the development of information and ICTs in cooperation programmes, as witnessed by the inclusion of ICT’s promotion as one of the 18 target areas for the eight objectives established in the Millennium Development Goals;
- the establishment of an enabling environment for the emergence of information-powered African economies presupposes the adoption of this imperative at the highest governmental levels and its specific reflection in economic policy frameworks;
Recommends:

To Members States:

- to develop, if not yet done, a National Information and Communication Infrastructures (NICI) strategy that would include all sectors of Information for Development namely SDI, Statistics and Library, and incorporate them as a full component of the national development plans and poverty reduction strategy papers;

- for countries that have already started or finalized their NICI and SDI process, to take necessary actions for their full integration;

- to transform the NICI Plan into a national Orientation Law focused on preparation of building the Information Society;

- to earmark adequate budgetary resources for the goals established in the NICI, through a Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF); and to fix in this MTEF Framework a percentage of the national budget that can be targeted to the promotion of the Information society and prepare in this regard a special report, annexed to the budget, detailing clearly the national effort;

- to incorporate the information dimension into every new public policy document or reform;

- to give to the private sector and businesses (including the SME and SMI and the rural sector) the necessary incentives and facilities to encourage them to use information tools and make the related adjustments in their strategy and structure, in order to increase their competitiveness, domestic and global market access and opportunities of wealth creation;

- to remodel the national regulatory policies in the economic sphere in order to minimize information asymmetries in the economy and make market functioning more effective;

- to include transparency of public information as a basic rule in their Fundamental Laws;

- to continue to actively participate, in coordination with the other African Nations, in the discussions regarding the GATS and the TRIPS, with the aim to improve the African positions in this regard;

- to present each year a report-assessment on the preparation towards the Information Society that will be discussed at the Parliament and in all segments of the society;

- to set up CODI national Committees in order to monitor the CODI meetings recommendations.

To ECA:
- to continue to actively support the Members States in the design and the implementation their NICI plans and strategies, taking into account the integrated approach for the various information components;
- to set up a CODI integrated Document including all CODI previous sessions recommendations and resolutions, and elaborate a CODI action Plan to be continuously updated;
- to set up a mechanism in order to monitor and evaluate the impact of CODI related activities;

**To International Partners:**

- to support the implementation by the Members States of the recommendations identified above;
- to make information and ICT promotion key component of their development assistance to African Countries as means for poverty reduction and growth acceleration.

**II. WORLD SUMMIT ON INFORMATION SOCIETY**

**The CODI,**

**Taking** into consideration the recommendations of CODI III regarding the presentation, by the Bamako Bureau of a common Platform in the WSIS preparatory process;

**Considering** the decisions of the WSIS and the need for Africa’s participation in the implementation of the Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005 recommendations;

**Noting** the current status of the international preparatory process of WSIS Second Phase, in which the international Community supported the African initiative of establishing the Digital Solidarity Fund and encouraged the use of existing financing mechanisms;

**Further considering** the interest expressed by the participants to the different CODI Sub Committees for the coming Second Phase of the WSIS Tunis 2005;

**Noting** the necessary involvement of the African Stakeholders (Governments, International Organisations, Civil Society and Private Sector) in the preparatory process of the Second phase of WSIS;

**Invites** the Member States to participate at the highest level to the Second Phase of the WSIS Tunis 2005;

**Recommends:***

- that all African Stakeholders continue their active participation to the international preparatory process of the Second Phase of WSIS;
- that the Bamako Bureau continues its coordination action in the Preparation of the Second Phase of WSIS, in conformity with its mandate;

**Recommends to ECA:**
o to continue providing appropriate support to the Bamako Bureau in fulfilling its mandate;
o to pursue its coordination efforts with other Regional UN Economic Commissions, in the Framework of WSIS;
o to support Tunisia in its efforts to organise the Second Phase of WSIS in November 2005 and to actively contribute to its success;

**Recommends** that CODI undertakes appropriate measures in order to implement WSIS Second Phase decisions as well as the different aspects of the African Action Plan, in order to contribute to building the information and knowledge society.

**III. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)**

**1. Creating an enabling environment for the development of the E-economy**

**Considering** that:

- Information is the strategic economic resource in the emerging e-economy and the knowledge industries are driving much of recent economic growth;

- Information and knowledge industries could offer major opportunities for the African economic growth

- Policy frameworks and legal instruments play a crucial role in promoting the development of new economy and facilitating Africa’s participation in the global networked economy,

**Noting** that the growth of Africa’s mobile markets outpaces the rest of the world,

**CODI recommends** Member States to:

a) Scale up investments in infrastructure development and e-commerce initiatives  
b) Put in place a balanced regulatory framework to encourage the private sector to drive the growth in the e-economy  
c) Encourage more participatory policy processes involving all stakeholders  
d) Involve new and traditional media to reach the public  
e) Ensure policy consistency, continuity and implementation with appropriate financial mechanisms  
f) Promote research and development (R&D) as a new mode of wealth creation and take appropriate measures to facilitate ICT industrialization, including development of hardware  
g) Harness creative and innovative technologies and business models, such as Voice over IP (VoIP), ICT-enabled export services and mobile commerce, to enhance competitiveness of Africa’s private sector and meet the needs of the public  
h) Proactively attract foreign knowledge and ICT businesses through FDI, co-investment and joint ventures  
i) Increase efforts to develop and expand infrastructure as a foundation of the e-economy, while reducing telecommunication tariffs
j) Support training institutions and centers of excellence to produce the critical mass of the required ICT skilled human resources
k) Support the creation and growth of indigenous knowledge and ICT based large businesses and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) through adequate financing mechanisms and capacity building programmes and services
l) Encourage the procurements of ICT products and services of African ICT companies to incubate talent and expand skill transfer
m) Set up a national committee to address Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues in the context of e-strategies
n) Review the formulation and enforcement of cyber laws and build capacity of law enforcement personnel in tackling cyber crimes in accordance with the basic human rights
o) Take into consideration the need for enhancing content creation
p) Ensure that the WSIS Plans of Action and the Accra Commitments are implemented
q) Establish regulatory mechanisms with regard to media and multi-media content
r) Endeavor to formulate and implement e-strategies with strong linkages with MDGs an PRSPs
s) Allocate a percentage of the national budget to ICT activities in various ministries, departments and agencies.

CODI recommends ECA to

a) Assist member States to raise awareness on challenges and opportunities of e-commerce
b) Increase assistance to member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the harmonization of policies and regulations with a view to developing sub-regional and regional markets, attracting foreign direct investments (FDI) and promoting regional integration
c) Support the implementation of initiatives to enhance capacity of member States in the area of monitoring and evaluating progress made through Information Society indicators
d) Scale up its support to member States in the area of institutional and individual capacity building in the formulation and development of e-strategies as a vehicle to create an enabling environment
e) Support member States to set up a mechanism at the national, regional and international levels to implement and evaluate the activities and initiatives derived from the WSIS Plans of Action and the Accra Commitments
f) Undertake a study on financing mechanisms for ICT businesses and initiatives
g) Strengthen and harmonize the existing sub-regional and regional regulatory activities in cooperation with the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU)
h) Encourage South-South cooperation, especially within Africa.

3. Mobilizing stakeholders and partners

Highlighting the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and establishment of an inclusive Information Society
CODI recommends member States to

a) Encourage the participation of women and disadvantaged entrepreneurs in the e-commerce by supporting initiatives, such as the Enterprise Development Facility (EDF) and implement initiatives specifically targeting at addressing gender imbalance;

b) Put in place a mechanism to address issues, such as security, privacy, confidence, consumer trust and fiscal matters;

c) Initiate and implement concrete Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and multi-stakeholder initiatives;

d) Encourage capacity building of civil society at the national and grassroots levels;

e) Encourage the active participation of youth in the Information Society processes and support capacity building for youth at the national level;

CODI recommends ECA to

a) Support capacity building and training of various stakeholders, such as media, public sector, private sector, academia, civil society, parliamentarians, youth and the disabled on the use of ICT to facilitate their participation in the E-economy

b) Assist member States to mainstream gender in e-strategies and e-commerce policies, legislations and regulations and to expedite the gender balanced participation in the e-economy

c) Assist Civil Society in contributing in building the information society by:
   - Establishing the network of African parliamentarians so as to enhance information exchange and enable them to play a key role in the development of African Information Society;
   - Supporting the African Youth ICT4D Network (AYIN) in the implementation of its Africa Plan towards the realization of Africa’s Information Society agenda.

CODI recommends AU/NEPAD and the international community to

- Support member States in the implementation of ICT initiatives in support of the MDGs, PRSPs and international competitiveness, taking into consideration national policies and specificities.

4. Support to Free and Open Source Software (FOSS)

Recognizing the potentials of FOSS as an emerging industry, employment creator and driving force of ICT development and the e-economy,

CODI recommends member States to

a) Consider FOSS as a strategic option to strengthen the provision of cost-effective, easily adaptable and modifiable services to the citizens

b) Raise awareness and build capacity on information security issues and concerns

c) Take into account FOSS in the formulation and implementation of ICT industrialization initiatives

d) Introduce training programmes in the use of FOSS
c) Encourage participation of FOSS communities in the NICI formulation and implementation processes

f) Ensure Open standards and interoperability of computer operating systems which have now been considered as part of infrastructure

CODI recommends ECA to

Support member States to develop capacity in FOSS.

IV. LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Recognizing the importance and contributions of knowledge, libraries, archives, documentation centers, and information services in economic and human development, including in achieving the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals and African Information Society Initiatives and the Action Plan of the World Summit on the Information Society.

CODI recommends to ECA to:

1. Review the objectives and strategies of the African Information Society Initiative (AISI) to elaborate the role and use of libraries, archives, documentation centres and other information services in African development strategies.

2. Establish a policy framework to include libraries and knowledge creation and management in the National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) plan.


4. Advocate and promote free and equal access to information.

5. Advocate for the introduction and promotion of knowledge management in member countries.

6. Play a pivotal role in promoting dissemination of knowledge and enhance its involvement in e-government initiatives in Africa.

7. Play a pivotal role in promoting development communication, including developing community information resource centres.

8. Focus on content in all its forms, including oral and indigenous knowledge.

9. Encourage integration between ICT, libraries and other information services.

10. Form partnerships among information providers, industry and government.
11. Target well-identified projects which it supports for the strengthening of capacity.

12. Include National library associations as well as library schools and other similar professional bodies in its partnership arrangements.

13. Support the development of digital and virtual libraries through projects such as the African Virtual Library and Information Network (AVLIN).

**CODI recommends further to Member States to:**

1. Develop national knowledge systems (involving national libraries, national archives and information, documentation centres, research councils, etc.) as broad-based frameworks to actively pursue an integrated knowledge and information strategy to carry out Information Society schemes, as well as economic and human development, including meeting Millennium Development Goals.

2. Adopt a holistic framework in developing national information policies to ensure completeness of their Information Society strategies, and to use broad-based implementation strategies in driving the national Information Society agenda.

3. Provide resources for the establishment of hybrid libraries in line with the goals set out in the WSIS Plan of Action.

4. Ensure that libraries and information centres are adequately provided for in national and sub-national budgets.

5. Recognize the current transition to an Information Society and develop mechanisms to ensure the adequate transformation.

**STATISTICS**

Recalling the resolutions made during CODI II and CODI III;

Noting the country reports presented to CODI IV by: Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Sierra Leone and Tunisia;

Having examined the reports on (i) the first and second meetings of the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA), (ii) the FASDEV meeting, (iii) the assessment of the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) in the region, and (iv) ECA statistical database development;

Bearing in mind the role of sub-regional institutions such as AFRISTAT, COMESA, EAC, ECOWAS, SADC, WAEMU, WAMI, etc., in the development of statistics in Africa;
Aware of the progress made by a number of countries in preparing strategic plans for statistics, and that many National Statistical Offices (NSOs) are constrained in their operations due to the traditional civil service practices;

Highly aware of the importance of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses programme and the urgent need of data for monitoring the MDGs, PRSPs, NEPAD and the APRM;

Appreciative of the important role of technical partners in promoting the use of statistics at the sub-national, national, sub-regional and regional levels with advocacy tools;

Recognizing the various initiatives undertaken by National Statistical Offices in data collection;

Noting the slow pace of adapting new statistical methodologies and the deficit in number of statisticians;

Noting also that the lack of ownership, inadequacy of financial resources, lack of institutional and human capacity continues to impede statistical development in Africa;

Recognizing further the significant advancements in the information and communication technologies and the need to increase their use in statistical operations;

Recognizing the bottlenecks statistical training centers are facing in building and strengthening statistical capacity;

Concerned that only a small proportion of member states have made commendable progress in the implementation of 1993 SNA, which was largely made possible by the existence of technical capacity local or external; and

Convinced that urgent and appropriate steps should be taken in the Continent to address the following issues;

CODI therefore:

A. National Strategy for the Development of Statistics

1. Reiterates its call for Member States to have formulated and begun the implementation of their NSDSs by 2006, preferably using the guidelines developed by PARIS21;

2. Requests technical and financial partners to continue to support the process of developing NSDSs;

A. Institutional frameworks
3. **Urges** Member States to facilitate the review of their national institutional framework for statistical work by strengthening, and in particular updating, where needed, the legal instruments that is, their Statistical Acts;

4. **Encourages** Member States to establish, where this is not in place, a high level supervisory and/or advisory mechanism(s) to ensure effective coordination and implementation of statistical development activities in the countries;

B. **The 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses**

5. **Urges** countries to effectively participate in the programme;
6. **Urges** ECA to take leadership in ensuring the success of the 2010 round of Population and Housing Censuses by:
   - Integrating these activities in the 2006-2007 work programme,
   - Putting in place a technical working group to articulate the African position;

C. **Collaboration among the stakeholders in the statistical capacity building in Africa**

7. **Encourages** ECA to enhance its collaboration with partners; as well as South-South cooperation on existing efforts in strengthening statistical capacities in Africa;
8. **Encourages** regional and sub-regional organizations to share with ECA, information on their proposed work programme;
9. **Encourages** member States to promote South to South cooperation in strengthening statistical capacities in Africa

D. **Use of Information and Communication Technologies**

10. **Recommends** that countries intensify the use of ICT tools (GPS, GIS, PDAs, web-based databases, etc.) and networks to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in the production and dissemination of statistical information;

11. **Recommends** that countries promote the effective use of statistics by exploiting a wide range of outputs (including user-friendly products), and existing networks to publicize the results of surveys.

E. **Monitoring Development**

12. **Urges** the statistical community to extend the established framework for poverty monitoring (MDGs and PRSPs) to the other components of the new development agenda, such as NEPAD;

F. **Training**

13. **Calls upon** Countries to renew their commitment to training initiatives with the support of partners in development;
14. **Emphasizes** the need for collaboration among Statistical Training Centres at national, sub-regional and regional levels;
15. **Encourages** cooperation between Statistical Training Centers and regional and sub-regional organizations, and other international institutions;

G. National Accounts

16. **Urges** countries to accelerate the implementation of the 1993 SNA by allocating adequate resources to National Statistical Offices and other agencies responsible for national accounts;

17. **Calls upon** ECA to coordinate regional and sub-regional organizations to take the lead in devising strategies for and provide effective support in the implementation of the 1993 SNA;

18. **Urges** ECA to initiate and organize within its 2006-2007 work programme, consultations among countries, regional and sub-regional organizations in the framework of the revision of the 1993 SNA;

H. Statistical Capacity in the ECA

19. **Urges** UNECA to accord the statistical function of the Commission the importance it deserves given the increasing need for statistics for development in the region;

I. Financing

20. **Urges** countries to commit adequate resources in support of statistical activities; and

21. **Encourages** development partners to coordinate their statistical development assistance in line with the national strategic plans.

VI. GEOINFORMATION

1. Regarding Integration:

Recognizing

- that Geoinformation is part of the AISI, yet the developments of Geoinformation policies have been going independently from the overall information policies of member states;
- that there is need to include Geoinformation in National Infrastructure content in order to fully realize the objectives of AISI;

Noting that a physical mapping infrastructure needs to be in place before Geoinformation can be collected and processed;

Recommends

- that member states that have not yet started to develop SDIs and NICIs should adopt an integrated approach when developing their national e-strategies;
- that member states that have already started SDIs and/or NICIs, should ensure that links are created between the two with strong coordinating mechanisms;
that governments allocate necessary resources to extend and maintain the mapping infrastructure, including geodetic framework and core datasets;

2. Regarding Situs Addressing

Noting

- the central role of addressing systems in the development of location-based services, e-commerce and e-government applications and for regional integration and globalization;
- the poor availability of addressing systems in Africa;

Recommends

- the inclusion of situs addressing as a component of core datasets of NSDIs and national infrastructure content;
- that member states should develop national guidelines on addressing complying with international practices and start their implementation;
- that a “Working Group on Situs Addressing” be established under the Executive Working Group of CODI-Geo;

3. regarding Mapping Africa for Africa

Recognizing

- that up-to-date, relevant, standardized and integrated geoinformation and statistical information are critical for sound decision-making;
- that there is a lack of a programmatic approach to the collection, maintenance and dissemination of such information;
- that most of the Infrastructure content for Africa is the responsibility of member states and institutions;
- that the availability of National Administrative Divisions as a fundamental dataset is crucial for the analysis and management of socio-economic phenomena;

Recommends the adoption of the Durban Statement on Mapping Africa for Africa (MAfA)

Welcomes:

- the efforts of the Second Administrative Level Boundaries Project (SALB) activated by the UN Geographic Working Group (UNWIG) as a basic platform for the collection, management, visualization and sharing of socio-economic data at sub-national level;
- the efforts of the ICA working group on MafA;

Urges Member states, particularly through their National Mapping Agencies (NMAs), to

- implement the recommendations of the Durban Statement on MAfA, and
- support the SALB project and provide the necessary data and information it requires;

4. Regarding African Resource Management Constellation System
Aware That earth observation and communication satellite systems are indispensable components of the infrastructure needed to collect and access real-time geoinformation

Recommends That member states participate in the African Resource Management (ARM) Constellation System as part of the SDI/NICI processes to ensure maximum benefit.

Concluding the Fourth Session of CODI, the Chairman pointed that the present Session represents a new start for CODI showing the importance of the information issues in the various economic and social activities, becoming consequently a strategic resource for African development and emergence from poverty.

The Chairman insisted also on the vital necessity to organise an appropriate follow-up mechanism in order to measure the progresses realised in the implementation of the CODI programs.

Finally the Chairman noted the important role to be played by CODI and ECA in the Second Phase of the WSIS Tunis 2005 preparatory process and invited the African community to actively participate to the Summit and its success.