



**UNITED NATIONS**  
**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

---

51882



Distr.  
GENERAL

E/ECA/PSD.5/16  
18 February 1988

ENGLISH  
Original: French

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fifth session of the Joint Conference of  
African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 21-28 March 1988

EVALUATION OF THE STATISTICAL TRAINING  
PROGRAMME FOR AFRICA

## I. INTRODUCTION

It should be recalled that the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) was adopted by the Conference of African Statisticians at its Tenth Session in 1977. It was formally instituted by resolution 9 ECO (XVII) of the Eighteenth Meeting of the ECA Executive Committee held in Khartoum, the Sudan, in 1978.

The main objective of STPA is to ensure that the African region has permanent qualified statistical staff for the statistics departments and other state departments as well as for the private sector. The requirements in statistical personnel of each country should be taken into consideration. In order to attain this objective, STPA was originally designed as a ten-year programme aimed at making Africa self-reliant (a) by increasing the number of trained statisticians, and (b) improving and maintaining the quality of serving statisticians.

It should be noted that STPA is a good example of co-operation between African Governments and several international organizations and bilateral and multilateral donor agencies working towards the same objective. The donor agencies include: the French Ministry for Co-operation and Development and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) of the United Kingdom, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC), the European Economic Community (EEC), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Resolution 576 (XXI) adopted by the twelfth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in April 1986, expressed "its deep appreciation for the assistance so far provided to the programme by many bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, and its hope that their support will continue and be further strengthened".

A periodic evaluation of STPA as a whole has been carried out by ECA since the establishment of the programme in order to identify as many of its weaknesses and strengths as possible and to chart out its future action. The results of such evaluation exercises were put down in reports such as the following: Some Selected Issues in the Development of STPA (E/ECA/STPA/DM.3/2), Evaluation of STPA and Future Work Programme (E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/1) and Towards self-reliance in the Development of Statistical Manpower (E/ECA/PSD.4/19).

The present report reviews the situation with respect to the achievements of STPA since its establishment on the basis of successive evaluations of the programme and recent developments and puts forward the broad outlines for future action particularly in the light of the discussions of the Fifth Meeting of Directors of Centres Participating in STPA which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 30 October 1987.

## II. EVALUATION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF STPA SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT

The evaluation of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA), covered the following major areas of activity: (a) the training of statisticians at all levels, (b) the strengthening of STPA Centres, (c) the use of guide syllabuses, (d) assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries, (e) research activities in STPA Centres, and (f) the dissemination of information on statistical training activities.

### 1. Training of statisticians at all levels

The following categories of statistical training were considered within the framework of STPA:

#### a) Training of professional statisticians

This type of training is general basic university training leading to one of the following degrees or diplomas: ingénieur des travaux statistiques (ITS), ingénieur (ou cadre supérieur) d'application de la statistique (IAS or CSAS), first degree in statistics (B.A, B.Sc., B.Stat.) or equivalent diplomas.

A survey on statistical organization and staffing carried out in 1987 among 23 statistical services of the region showed that the number of professional statisticians increased substantially in the central statistics services and very considerably in ministry departments and other sectors of the countries of the region. On the other hand, the internal evaluation of STPA made in 1985 from a survey of 33 African countries had concluded that 65 per cent of requirements for professional statisticians had been met and that the coverage was better in French-speaking countries than in English-speaking countries of the region. With particular respect to the needs to be met by STPA Centres, the French-speaking centres had a coverage rate of 96 per cent (excluding INSEA of Rabat, which alone has nearly half of the professional statisticians trained by the French-speaking centres during the 1978-1984 period) compared to only 66 per cent for the English-speaking centres.

Despite the fact that the figures supplied by the countries themselves and the STPA Centres are not perfect, it could be said that encouraging progress has been made by STPA with regard to the training of professional statisticians since its establishment in 1978. However, recent developments in several African countries should be considered particularly as far as the freeze on recruitments in the civil service following the implementation of the structural adjustment policy is concerned. The result of that policy is that it is difficult for some trained statisticians to find employment in national statistics departments where they are some times obliged to accept temporary jobs. In that respect, some participants in the Fifth Meeting of Directors of Centres participating in STPA felt that a way should be found for using such statisticians in other sectors; this might entail changes in the training programmes.

#### b) Specialized training and post-graduate studies

What is required is to strengthen post-graduate training to make the region less dependent on external staff and institutions. Two types of training come under this category:

- Long-term studies leading to one of the following diplomas: ingénieur statisticien économiste (ISE) (statistician-economist), masters or doctorate degree in statistics or equivalent diplomas;
- Specialization in areas such as national accounting, agricultural statistics, sample surveys, demographic statistics and electronic statistical data processing.

It should be noted that progress is being made as far as the establishment of permanent post-graduate training institutions in the region is concerned.

Until recently, most statistician-economists from the French-speaking countries of sub-Saharan Africa were trained by the Centre européen de formation des statisticiens économistes des pays en voie de développement (CESD) in Paris. Two other centres in North Africa namely, the Institut national de statistique et d'économie appliquée (INSEA) of Rabat and the Institut national de la planification et de la statistique (INPS), Algiers, trained this category of statistical staff especially for the countries of that subregion.

For some years now, consideration has been given to transferring to two French-speaking centres, i.e. ENSEA of Abidjan and ISSEA of Yaounde, the training of statistician-economists that had been done hitherto by CESD. In October 1987, ENSEA of Abidjan started its first year courses for statistician-economists.

In the English-speaking African countries, two STPA centres, i.e., the Department of Statistics of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics of the University of Makerere, Uganda, provide such post-graduate training. The establishment and/or strengthening of such post-graduate statistical training centres is envisaged in the future work programme adopted by the meeting of Directors of Centres participating in STPA.

With respect to the second type of training, i.e. the organization of specialized training programmes in the African region, relatively little progress has been made. A few years ago, apart from the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD) of Yaoundé and the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) of Legon, Accra, which offer courses for specialization in demography, no other STPA centre offered specialization courses as such in areas such as national accounting, agricultural statistics, sample surveys and electronic data processing.

At the Fourth Meeting of Directors of STPA centres in November 1985, it was mentioned that ISAE of Kampala, Uganda, planned to organize optional nine-month specialization courses in national accounting, computer data processing, economic statistics, agricultural statistics, sampling techniques, demography and social statistics. At the moment, the only specialization programmes organized by the Institute are in agricultural statistics and national accounting.

In the first two years of the cycle des magisters (post-graduate courses) of INPS, Algiers, the students attend theoretical courses on specialization and introduction to research before doing a year of research in order to prepare and defend their thesis.

At INSEA of Rabat, specialization in the areas of economic analysis, planning, sample surveys and so on are offered as part of optional courses (economics and demography) in the second year of the ISE degree course.

At the CESD - Paris, optional courses are offered in the third year of the ISE degree course in the following areas: econometrics and temporal series, analysis and production of statistics, computer science and operational research, modelling and micro-economic policy, industrial economics and applied micro-economics and actuary training and finance.

The current seven associate STPA centres have so far helped to fill the gaps in specialized training for the benefit of African countries in particular. For example, the International Statistical Programs Centre (ISPC) of Washington organizes each year ten-month specialized training courses in the following areas: sample surveys and statistical methods, food and agricultural statistics, demographic statistics, economic statistics, computerized data systems and survey methods.

c) Seminars and short-term training courses

Few STPA centres participated in this type of training which is meant for working statisticians because of the shortage of financial resources required to organize such activities. Only CESD - Paris, the Department of Statistics of the University of Ibadan, EASTC of Dar-es-Salaam and RIPS of Legon, confirmed that they organized during the 1986-1987 period workshops and seminars scheduled for 1985. The associate centres on the other hand played a predominant role with respect to this type of training. Indeed, the topics of the seminars and short-term training courses organized by associate centres every year are generally very useful to African statisticians. The Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics has, for a number of years now, established new objectives which include increasing the number of seminars to be organized in Africa, the choice of multidisciplinary topics, activities on relations between users and producers of statistics, producing teaching materials that could be used for its courses and seminars so that some of those materials could be used by the STPA centres and national statistical services for their training activities. The International Statistical Programs Centre (Bureau of the Census) also organizes upon request in African countries special seminars on specific subjects having to do with statistical activities.

d) Training of middle-level statisticians

The studies under this category are those that lead to either the diplôme d'adjoint technique de la statistique or diploma in statistics (Intermediate level), or the diploma of agent technique de la statistique or certificate in statistics (middle level).

During the evaluation of STPA carried out in 1985, it was realized that 68 per cent of the needs of the 33 countries considered in terms of middle-level statisticians had been covered and that the situation was more satisfactory in English-speaking countries than in French-speaking countries of the region; this was the opposite of what had been recorded with respect to professional statisticians.

As a result of the concerns expressed by African countries at the Second and Third Sessions of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers which were held respectively in 1982 and 1984, ECA has carried out about 30 technical advisory missions since 1984 to more than 20 countries within the framework of in-service statistical training programmes/training of middle-level statisticians at the national level. The aims of the missions were to (a) assess the current status of in-service statistical programme/training of middle-level statisticians at the national level; (b) to discuss measures likely to improve the level of the programs; and (c) to discuss what assistance could be provided in that area under STPA.

At the beginning of the STPA programme, five English-speaking African countries, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mauritius, Nigeria and Zambia were organizing in-service statistical training programmes generally on a part-time basis. It should be noted that this type of programme is not used in French-speaking African countries where promotion in the civil service generally depends on passing an officially recognized examination. It has therefore been proposed that French-speaking countries should rather consider establishing full-time national programmes for training middle-level statisticians as is the practice at STPA centres.

Since then, there has been a significant increase in the number of countries implementing in-service training programmes/middle-level training programmes at the national level. A total of nine English-speaking countries currently organize in-service training programs: Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Zambia, Liberia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, the United Republic of Tanzania (including Zanzibar) and Zimbabwe. Five French-speaking countries have established national branches for training middle-level statisticians; they are Burundi, the Congo, Niger, the Central African Republic and Rwanda. The financial assistance required to establish such branches has been supplied thus far by the Commission for European Communities under the project "EEC Assistance to STPA", FAC and the World Bank.

## 2. Strengthening of STPA centres

The main activities carried out with respect to the strengthening of STPA centres concerned the award of fellowships for training trainers, the provision of short-term consultants to some STPA centres, the supply of teaching materials and support for the construction of premises for the centres.

The total UNDP contribution to the financing of the regional component of STPA was around US\$3 million for the period January 1979-June 1987. UNDP also approved the integrated project entitled "Statistical Development Programme for Africa" whose budget amounts to about US\$2.1 million during the period covered by the fourth UNDP regional programme for Africa, 1987-1991. The Statistical Development Programme for Africa covers activities

in statistical training, national accounting and household surveys.

Resources were mobilized under the regional component of STPA for training lecturers of STPA centres. A total of 20 fellowships were granted for that purpose during the period 1980-1986; 13 of them were for English-speaking centres and seven for French-speaking centres. In addition, six fellowships were granted to French-speaking Africans to participate in a ten-week computerized statistics course organized by CESD in 1980 and 1981. It is reassuring to know that all the lecturers who were granted fellowships under the regional component of STPA have gone back to their home centres after their training. Other fellowships were also offered for the training of teaching staff for STPA centres. Such fellowships were granted either by the centres themselves or by bilateral and multilateral donor agencies. Unfortunately, the secretariat does not have accurate information on the total number of fellowships offered.

The STPA centres also received assistance in the form of short-term visiting lecturers who gave courses in specialized areas. Since the beginning of implementation of the UNDP-financed regional component of STPA, a total of 39 visiting lecturers have been recruited for that purpose. The EEC assistance project to STPA also provides for lecture missions to the Dar-es-Salaam and Kampala centres.

Moreover, three STPA centres received assistance under the regional component of STPA with respect to the purchase of some teaching materials. They were the Collège statistique of Dakar, ISAE of Kampala and IAMSEA of Kigali which received respectively a photocopier and agricultural survey equipment, two micro-computers and accessories and an electronic stencil machine.

Under the "EEC Assistance Project to STPA", ISAE of Kampala received 60 solar calculators, one duplicating machine and one typewriter. A duplicating machine was also sent to the Department of Statistics of the University of Botswana. In addition, the Departments of Statistics of the University of Ghana and the National University of Lesotho received respectively 50 and 25 solar calculators and the Department of Statistics of the University of Ibadan received books. The Project also envisages the twinning of STPA centres and European Centres, study tours and the organization by CESD of common ISE and ITS competitive examinations. The preparation of common competitive examinations was carried out concurrently with the preparation of annals on the tests of joint competitive examinations. EEC released a total of 900,000 ECU under the second Lome Convention for this project. Moreover, because of the growing needs in the area of micro-computer processing and following a project profile prepared by ECA, an additional sum of 400,000 ECU was allocated for training and the purchase of computer equipment under the third Lome Convention. However, according to a report made to the Fifth Meeting of Directors of STPA centres, requests for assistance from regional training institutions for funds allocated under the third Lome Convention must be signed by all the participating countries and this might delay the release and use of the 400,000 ECU mentioned above.

Finally, it should be noted that the European Development Fund (EDF) provided substantial assistance with respect to the construction of new premises for two STPA centres, IAMSEA of Kigali and ENSEA of Abidjan thus contributing to increasing the intake capacity of those centres. It is hoped that EDF will also provide assistance for the construction of new facilities for EASTC of Dar-es-Salaam and for other centres.

### 3. Use of guide syllabuses for training in statistics

It should be recalled that under its Statistical Training Programme for Africa ECA has so far prepared six guide syllabuses for training in statistics. There are three types of guide syllabuses: one for professional level training, one for training of middle-level categories and one for in-service training. ECA was requested by the Fourth Meeting of Directors of STPA centres, held in November 1985 to undertake a critical review of the guide syllabuses in order to assess their usefulness to the training centres and national statistics services. Such assessment was deemed necessary because it made it possible to determine among other things which aspects of the guide syllabuses needed to be considered in detail during the period reviews to be undertaken and to find out whether more efforts should be made to promote their use.

The evaluation undertaken by ECA was considered by the Fifth Meeting of Directors of STPA centres which noted that up to 80 per cent of the content of the guide syllabuses had been used in some centres (a) to compare a particular topic/subject in the guide syllabus to ensure that the centre's corresponding syllabus was in line with its general direction and scope; or (b) to review the syllabuses of the centres. Another conclusion drawn from that evaluation was that for new centres or new teaching programmes, it was easier to adapt parts of the guide syllabuses while for old centres it was difficult to modify syllabuses which had been established for a long period.

### 4. Assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries

The initial activities of ECA with respect to special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries were undertaken in pursuance of the conclusions of the meeting of officials of national statistical offices of Portuguese-speaking African countries held in Addis Ababa in October 1980. The meeting had suggested that emphasis should be put on (a) developing in-service training programme; and (b) establishing a middle-level training centre or developing the Lubango Centre in Angola. As a result of those conclusions, ECA took steps to try to implement the option of strengthening the Lubango training centre so that it can offer regional services. ECA's efforts revealed that all the countries of the group were in favour of using the Lubango centre but were not ready to send students there in the near future because of the situation in the subregion.

In October 1983, the Third Meeting of Directors of STPA centres agreed that emphasis should be put on training activities at the national level. Following the recommendations of that meeting, ECA undertook in 1984 two activities in favour of Portuguese-speaking African countries: (a) the preparation of a study on the statistical training requirements of those countries; and (b) the preparation of an appropriate in-service statistical training guide syllabus for middle-level statisticians of those countries.



The 1984 study comprised a number of proposals to meet, in the medium term, the requirements of the countries concerned in terms of statisticians and to establish permanent institutions for training middle-level statisticians in the African region for Portuguese-speaking countries.

In 1985, ECA had attempted to launch in-service statistical training programmes in three countries of that group: Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe and Mozambique. A consultant was recruited for six months to help Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe to establish such programme. At the request of Mozambique, an adviser in statistical training went to Mozambique to collect information for the preparation of a project document to be submitted to donors for the funding of an in-service training programme. Unfortunately, ECA's initiatives came to nought because the countries concerned did not follow up the matter.

In 1986, activities were carried out concurrently by the Commission of the European Communities and the Statistical Office of the European Communities on the one hand and by ECA on the other which resulted in the organization of a joint EEC/ECA meeting in Brussels in May 1987 of directors of national statistical offices of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries. The aims of the meeting were as follows:

- To give more detailed information to the directors of the statistical offices of the five countries on the proposed establishment at Lisbon, by the Portuguese Government of a school to train professional statisticians for the national statistics system of Portugal;
- To find out the points of view of the countries concerned on the proposal to establish within the school a centre for training professional statisticians for Portuguese-speaking African countries;
- To thoroughly discuss the establishment of programmes for training middle-level statisticians for Portuguese-speaking African countries.

The following were the broad outlines of the conclusions of the Brussels meeting:

- The five countries accepted to use the training centre established within the National School of Applied Statistics, Lisbon, Portugal, for the training of their professional statisticians;
- Guinea-Bissau's project to establish a national regional centre in Bissau to train middle-level statisticians and the acceptance of Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe to use the centre for training their middle-level staff;
- Organisation of joint EEC/Portugal/ECA/Cape Verde/Sao Tome and Principe mission in November 1987 to Bissau to assess the infrastructures for hosting the middle-level training centre;
- Updating by ECA of the results of the study on the statistical training needs of the countries of the group and preparation of a guide syllabus for the training of middle-level staff;

- Organization of a meeting in Luxembourg in February 1988 to consider the guide syllabus for training middle-level statisticians and the curricula of the National School of Applied Statistics of Lisbon.

It should be noted that some of the activities recommended by the Brussels meeting have already been carried out or are ongoing: (a) the guide syllabus for training middle-level statisticians has been prepared by an ECA-financed consultant (b) a joint EEC/Portugal/ECA mission went to Bissau in November 1987 and evaluated the facilities of the future centre for training middle-level statisticians (c) the results of the study of 1984 requirements have been up-dated by ECA and (d) arrangements were being made at the time of writing this document to organize the Luxemburg meeting.

It appears therefore that the conclusions of the Brussels meeting are giving a fresh impetus to the project on special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries. Proof of this is the fact that for the first time a Portuguese delegation attended as an observer the Fifth Meeting of Directors of STPA centres.

#### 5. Research activities at STPA centres

It should be recalled that within the framework of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA), the issue of research at STPA centres was discussed for the first time at the Second Meeting of Directors of STPA centres which was held from 2 to 6 November 1981 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It had been thought appropriate at the end of the discussions on the subject to have a global approach to research covering the following areas:

- Research projects by intermediate and high-level students;
- Research by post-graduate students;
- Research by lecturers (individually or collectively);
- Other activities such as the services of experts; and
- Problems encountered in the course of research activities.

It was also agreed that projects that contributed to national development should be included in the research topics.

A survey on the status of research activities at STPA centres was carried out between February and June 1987 by ECA. The survey was in the form of a questionnaire sent out to all the centres in order to obtain information on research activities undertaken by the centres between 1982 and 1986. Eighty per cent of the centres replied, i.e., 12 out of 15 (five English-speaking centres and seven French-speaking centres).

The findings of the survey indicated that of the 12 centres that replied, 10 had carried out research during the above-mentioned period, one centre had not carried out any research and at another centre the students had carried out research that the centre considered as practicals. The findings indicated that the centres had undertaken extremely varied research activities that covered areas such as demographic and social statistics, economic statistics and related statistics, data processing, industrial statistics, agricultural statistics, sampling techniques and statistical theories.

The Fifth Meeting of Directors of STPA centres which was held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 October 1987 mentioned two major problems that hampered the promotion of research activities at STPA centres namely, the shortage of teaching staff and the shortage of funds to purchase equipment. It was indicated that due to the limited number of teaching staff at the training centres such staff could not teach a full load of post-graduate programmes and conduct research at the same time and that the type of research undertaken by the centres was generally theoretical and there was a tendency to neglect applied research because of the lack of funds to purchase equipment. The following were some of the noteworthy suggestions on how to finance research at the centres:

- donors should consider the provision of funds, controlled by themselves, to STPA centres to enable the centres to undertake research;
- the centres should identify research projects that would be of interest to the private sector and which would therefore attract funding from that sector.

#### 6. Dissemination of information on statistical training activities

The main channels for disseminating information on statistical training activities within the framework of STPA are:

STPA News: the STPA news is published twice a year (in January and July). It gives an account on all STPA activities in general. So far, 13 issues have come out in English and French. The frequency of the publication of "STPA News" has been maintained during the period 1979-1987 despite some initial material difficulties;

Directory of STPA and Associate centres: This publication used to come out every two years until 1983 as the "Directory of STPA centres". It provided detailed information on the activities of the centres. The Third Meeting of Directors of STPA centres requested, in November 1983, the inclusion of associate centres in the publication while maintaining its frequency of publication. Thus, the 1985 and subsequent issues were called "Directory of STPA and Associate Centres" and also contained detailed information on associate STPA centres. So far, five issues of the Directory have been published and distributed;

Directory of Non-STPA centres: This publication which came out for the first time in 1985, gives information on the activities of national statistical training centres in Africa which do not participate directly in STPA. It was felt that these centres make vital contributions to the training of statistical staff needed by Africa. The information collected to prepare the first issue was only on seven centres, one French-speaking and six English-speaking. As far as the second issue was concerned, the response rate of the centres increased sharply: 20 centres six of which were French-speaking and 14 English-speaking. This Directory is also published every two years;

Six-monthly Progress Report on STPA Activities: This report is prepared in June and December each year at the request of UNDP which finances the regional component of the STPA based at ECA. This report is distributed by UNDP to all countries of the region for their comments and suggestions.

The secretariat has tried to take all appropriate measures to overcome the problems of translation or reproduction of all these documents in order to ensure regular publication. Some training centres have not always assisted the secretariat in its task of disseminating information. All STPA centres and associate centres as well as non-STPA centres should regularly send to the secretariat news on their activities and diligently reply to specific requests for information.

### III. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF STPA

After 10 years of operation of STPA, it has been realized that the objectives of the Programme, particularly self-reliance of Africa in qualified statisticians, have not been fully achieved. However, in the light of the unquestionable progress achieved with respect to training, all the parties concerned have indicated their willingness to continue such activities by proposing some adjustments in the actions to be undertaken.

It has therefore been decided that the regional component of STPA financed by UNDP should no longer be a separate project. It was felt that statistical training activities would be more efficient if they were integrated into a wider programme which also included the improvement of basic statistics and the development of household surveys. An integrated project entitled "Statistical Development Programme for Africa" (SDPA) was adopted for the fourth UNDP Programming Cycle (1987-1991). Within that framework and in relation to the global STPA, emphasis has been put on the following aspects: (a) training of trainers; (b) training of middle-level statisticians giving special priority to Portuguese-speaking African countries; (c) support for post-graduate training programmes; (d) participation of women; and (e) participation of the private sector.

As far as EEC assistance to STPA is concerned, the project financed under the second Lome Convention is being implemented. As it has already been indicated, the project is on technical assistance and twinning, study tours, training courses, the organization of joint competitive examinations for recruitment, the supply of teaching materials and the transfer of CESD to Abidjan and Yaoundé. However, additional funds are already available and the priorities on which such funds will be used are: providing the centres with computer equipment and providing assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries.

As a result of all these considerations, the Fifth Meeting of Directors of STPA centres held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 October 1987 adopted a new work programme for the global STPA programme for the period 1987-1991 which is based on the following: (a) strengthening of centres participating in STPA and the role of associate centres in the programme; (b) teaching programmes and dissemination of information on statistical training activities; (c) special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries; and (d) co-ordination of activities.

1. Strengthening of centres participating in STPA and the role of associate centres in the programme

This involves providing operational support to all centres participating in STPA to enable them to contribute effectively to the achievement of the objectives set under the programme. To that effect, special attention should be paid to the following aspects:

- i) The granting of fellowship for training teaching staff for the STPA centres should be continued and intensified. High priority should be given to centres offering specialized training and post-graduate studies as well as to national middle-level training facilities;
- ii) Efforts should be made to provide visiting lecturers to the centres that need them to give lectures in certain specialized areas;
- iii) Supply, according to the needs, of full-time lecturers to some STPA centres pending the return of teaching staff from training. Particular attention should be given to centres that provide post-graduate training;
- iv) Every effort should be made to ensure that the STPA centres have the appropriate teaching equipment for their full development particularly micro-computers, calculators, reproduction equipment and so on. Similarly, the Programme should provide support, as necessary, for the expansion or construction of premises for the centres;
- v) Support for the organization of training courses, seminars and working groups in the priority areas of applied statistics, statistical computing, national accounts, agricultural statistics, household surveys and data applications and analysis.

The Programme should also assist two French-speaking STPA centres namely, ENSEA of Abidjan and ISSEA of Yaounde to open and/or develop a section for the training of statistician-economists. It should be recalled in this connection that ENSEA has just opened such a section in October 1987.

STPA should also provide assistance for the establishment and/or development of specialized post-graduate programmes at the Department of Statistics, University of Ibadan and the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics, University of Makerere.

As a result of the substantial requirements in terms of middle-level statisticians, assistance should be given to African countries that wish to establish or develop national branches for training middle-level statisticians particularly as far as French-speaking African countries are concerned.

The Programme should also provide support to non-STPA African national centres for the training of professional level statistical staff; such support should go especially to the departments of statistics of universities of English-speaking African countries. Such centres will have to be involved in the co-operative development of teaching programmes to ensure a more practical re-orientation of their courses.

The associate STPA centres will play a major role in the organization of training courses, seminars and specialized short training courses for the countries of the region in view of the great needs expressed in those areas. These centres should, as far as possible, undertake such activities in Africa so as to take local conditions into account.

1. Teaching programmes and dissemination of information on statistical training activities

It is not only useful but also necessary to maintain equivalence of curricula and qualifications. Indeed, candidates holding diplomas from one centre, may have to continue their studies in another centre. In addition, the maintenance and some harmonization of programmes and terms of recruitment facilitate the recognition of diplomas awarded by various centres by the public services of the user countries. STPA should continue to emphasise the co-operative development of teaching programmes and the dissemination of information on statistical training activities relevant to the African region.

One of the main activities in this area is the periodic review of professional and middle level training guide syllabuses as well as in-service training guide syllabuses prepared within the framework of STPA taking into account the new elements in statistical development in the region and in the world. In that connection special attention should be devoted to providing adequate training in the techniques of household surveys, national accounts and related economic statistics as well as electronic data processing. At the same time, the use of such guide syllabuses by STPA and non-STPA centres and by national statistical departments should be promoted.

Assistance should continue to be provided to French-speaking centres in the organization of joint competitive entrance examinations in order to further harmonize the curricula and qualifications. The Programme should provide support to the English-speaking centres so as to consider ways and means of ensuring certain degree of equivalence in the curricula and conditions of admission in addition to the use of guide syllabuses. Finally, the exchange of teachers between STPA centres and twinning of STPA centres with well-known statistical training institutions outside the African region should be promoted.

With respect to the dissemination of information on statistical training, the "STPA News", "Directory of STPA and Associate centres", "Directory of non-STPA centres" and other appropriate means of communications should be regularly published. In addition, support should be provided to STPA centres to enable them to develop and produce teaching manuals and textbooks. The Programme should support the publication and dissemination of the results of research undertaken by the STPA centres.

### 3. Special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries

The future work programme of STPA gives high priority to activities that relate to the project on special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries. In this area, every effort should be made to establish the training mechanisms recommended by the meeting of directors of statistics, departments of the countries of the group which was held in Brussels in May 1987. The activities planned under the future STPA work programme are on:

- Support for the establishment, within the national school of applied statistics of Portugal now being set up, of a professional level statistical training centre for the nationals of the Portuguese-speaking African countries;
- Support for the establishment and development of a national centre offering subregional services in Bissau and national centres in Angola and Mozambique for the training of middle-level statistical staff for the countries of the group;
- Support for securing fellowships for training of trainers and student fellowships in sufficient number with a view to promoting statistical training for the benefit of the countries of the group;
- Support for the organization of courses and seminars for working statisticians of the countries of the group;
- Drawing up of professional and middle level training guide syllabuses for the Portuguese-speaking African countries and the periodic review of these guide syllabuses;
- Preparation of teaching materials in support of the statistical training programmes of the countries of the group;
- Support for the STPA centres effectively contributing to the training of statisticians for Portuguese-speaking African countries.

### 4. Co-ordination of STPA activities

First of all, the willingness to co-operate of all those involved in the global Statistical Training Programme for Africa, namely, African Governments, STPA centres and associate centres, other statistical training centres in Africa, bilateral and multilateral donor agencies and various national and international institutions should be noted. All these parties have combined their efforts to promote statistical training in the African region.

In order to ensure maximum efficiency and success of the overall STPA programme, the Fifth Meeting of Directors of STPA centres planned the organization of the following activities so as to co-ordinate efforts with respect to the future development of STPA:

- Periodic evaluation of the activities undertaken within the framework of the STPA; to this end, it will be necessary to organise an annual survey on the results achieved by the STPA centres as well as a periodic survey on the organisation and the staffing of statistical services in Africa.
- Measures to procure a sufficient number of fellowships for study at STPA centres and associate centres. To this end, African Governments should earmark a sufficient number of fellowships for statistical training, either from their national resources or from external assistance funds. The donors should facilitate and accelerate, as much as possible, the procedures for granting the fellowships.
- Follow-up of the implementation of the Resolution 576(XXI) of the ECA Conference of Ministers on the "Strengthening of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa" adopted in Yaounde in August 1986.
- Co-ordination by ECA of the technical and financial assistance from various bilateral and multilateral donor agencies to STPA, including EEC, CFTC and UNDP.
- Co-ordination of the overall activities undertaken in the development of the STPA.
- Organisation of the biennial meeting of Directors of centres participating in the STPA.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

The summary of evaluations of STPA carried out so far indicates that the Programme has made substantial progress particularly as far as the co-operative development of curricula, the dissemination of information on statistical training activities, the strengthening of centres through the training of trainers, the provision of visiting lecturers and supply of teaching equipment, the organization of short training courses and seminars particularly by the associate centres and the co-ordination of all the activities are concerned. It is also satisfying to note that activities aimed at developing post-graduate university training and specialization as well as special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries in statistical training have begun.

However, it should be recognized that the assigned objectives have still not been fully attained especially as far as quantity is concerned. Indeed, only part of the estimated requirements particularly with respect to professional statisticians for English-speaking African countries and middle-level statistical staff for French-speaking African countries have been satisfied. It should also be indicated that there are still problems with respect to fellowships, the limited intake capacity of the centres, admission of some African countries to the centres, the establishment of national branches for training middle-level statisticians and so on. The effects of the current economic crisis on the Programme should also be taken into account.



It can be hoped that the activities planned under the future work programme of STPA proposed by the Fifth Meeting of Directors of STPA centres will make it possible to overcome all these difficulties and ensure a harmonious development of the Programme. Of course, in order to ensure that this work programme can be implemented with maximum chances of success, all the parties concerned will have to be involved: African Governments, STPA centres and associate centres, non-STPA national training centres, bilateral and multilateral donor agencies and ECA and other national and international institutions.

The Fifth Session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers is invited to:

a) Make comments and suggestions on the achievements of STPA since its establishment; and

b) Adopt, after consideration, the report of the Fifth Meeting of Directors of STPA centres as well as the future work programme of STPA which is in annex I of this report (E/ECA/PSD.5/17).