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**STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MONITORING AND  
EVALUATING SHORT-TERM POLICY REFORMS AND  
LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES**

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Table of Contents

|  | <u>Paragraphs</u> |
|--|-------------------|
| I. INTRODUCTION  | 1 - 3             |
| II. POLICY REFORMS AND DIMENSIONS OF<br>STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS     | 4 - 15            |
| III. STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SHORT-<br>TERM POLICY REFORMS      | 6 - 32            |
| IV. STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LONG-TERM<br>DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES | 33 - 43           |
| V. CONCLUSION  | 44                |

**STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MONITORING AND  
EVALUATING SHORT-TERM POLICY REFORMS AND  
LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES**

**I. Introduction**

1. Since the first half of the 1970s, African countries had been experiencing serious economic distortions which grew progressively worst so much so that by the early 1980s the African region as a whole had come into deep recession and a serious economic crisis. Evidence of this abounds: structural imbalances between consumption and savings; imports and exports; investment and domestic savings; installed physical capacity and management capacity; chronic government budget deficits; chronic deficits on trade and current accounts of the balance of payment; mounting external indebtedness and debt service obligations; the precipitous retrogression in almost all major indicators of economic and social progress; marked disintegration of the productive, physical and social infrastructure, and the resulting erosion of production, productivity and the standard of living.

2. In order to redress the situation, most governments are implementing stabilization (viz: fiscal, monetary and exchange rate) policies and structural adjustment programmes (SAPs), the latter aimed at introducing discrete, as compared to marginal, changes in policies in response to discrete shocks.

These initiatives were to, among others:

- rehabilitate the economy and promote macro-economic growth and sustainability through monetary, fiscal, trade and foreign exchange policies (macro-economic policies);
- provide adequate production incentives that encourage the efficient use of scarce resources (incentive policies);
- achieve a socially acceptable distribution of the benefit of growth (equity policies).

3. This paper is an attempt to highlight some of the short-term policy reforms and long-term development programmes and strategies and, in particular, to indicate the statistical series which countries may want to consider in designing national programmes for monitoring and evaluating these instruments of adjustment and growth. The statistical series called for in this paper do not constitute an exhaustive list: they are, however, the main series which it had been proved desirable, but not necessarily feasible, to collect given resources, data and administrative constraints.

## II. Policy Reforms and dimensions of statistical requirements

4. A majority of the African countries have initiated and continue to implement substantial policy reforms often with the support of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. These SAPs which require short-run stabilization policies as the first step towards eliminating external and internal imbalances have focused on: rationalization and liberalization of prices especially exchange rate, food price structures; establishment of positive real interest rates; realistic prices for public utilities; liberalized financial markets; prioritization of public expenditure towards human development and infrastructure; reduced share of public consumption, in particular military expenditures etc. These policy reforms also aim at more efficient public sector management; enabling measures to facilitate enterprise and production; reduce poverty etc.

5. By the early 1980s, it was clearly apparent that although policy reforms were in some cases succeeding in restoring macroeconomic balance over the short term, in order to tackle the African crisis, development strategies and programmes must simultaneously deal with the short- to medium-term as well as the fundamental structural bottlenecks. These structural constraints which have been generated largely by various inefficient government policies include protection of private industry, financial structure segmentation and weakness, the external debt burden etc.

6. It should be recalled that in 1980, African Heads of State and Government adopted the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA)<sup>1</sup> for the Economic and Social Development of Africa 1980-2000 which, for the first time, formulated long-term strategies for Africa's development based on self-reliance and self-sustainment. However, in the years that followed the adoption of the LPA, the African economies experienced serious socio-economic crisis which resulted from internal and external factors e.g. rapid terms of trade deterioration, sharp decline in primary export commodity prices compared to high import prices of manufactured goods and oil, the world recession during 1980-1982, the African drought of 1983-1985, the collapse of commodity markets in 1986, escalating debt burden and declining real resource flows.

7. Against such adverse situation, many African countries endeavoured to undertake short- to medium-term economic reform programmes such as "Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990" (APPER) and the "United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD)". However, over time, increasing concern were expressed in

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<sup>1</sup> LPA Lagos plan of action for economic development of Africa 1980-2000-(Organization of African Unity)

respect to the socio-economic relevance of these programmes to Africa's long-term development objectives.

8. Such concerns and apprehensions, together with the need to regain the pre-shock growth path of the African economies and further the development process provided the impetus for the design and subsequent adoption by the African Ministers responsible for Economic Planning and Development and Ministers of Finance of the "African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation (E/ECA/CM.15/6 Rev. 3) (AAF-SAP). Centred on the need to link economic, social and political issues, the programme tries to reconcile short-term initiatives with long-term development perspectives. The AAF-SAP strategy stresses that from the economic point of view, the use by the orthodox SAPs of the classical instruments of money supply, credit squeeze, exchange rate and interest rate adjustments, trade liberalization etc., which may be valid in well structured economies could hardly bring about transformation in African economies which are characterized by weak and disarticulate structures.

9. AAF-SAP has elaborated a number of major policy directions to help attain the development objectives and overcome the structural bottlenecks of the African economies.

These are:

**A. Strengthening and Diversifying Production Capacity**

- Land reforms for better access and entitlement;
- Enhancement of the role of women in the modernization of the food production sector;
- (\*) Devoting at least 20-25 percent of the total of public investment to agriculture;
- (\*) Allocation of an increasing share of foreign exchange for imports of vital inputs for agriculture and manufacturing sectors; avoidance of import strangulation;
- (\*) Subsidized credit for food sub-sector and essential manufactured inputs;
- Adoption of investment codes tailored to the promotion and development of small-scale industries;
- Creation and strengthening of rural financial institutions for increased mobilization of rural savings;
- Rehabilitation of installed infrastructure;
- (\*) Use of de facto multiple exchange rates system for resource transfers, remittances and reversal of capital flight;
- (\*) Creation of a special fund for loans at subsidized interest rates to certain groups of economic operators.

**B. Improving the Level of Income and its Distribution Pattern**

- Enlarging the tax base, improving efficiency and probity of the tax collection machinery;
- Reduction of government expenditures on defence and non-productive public sector activities;
- (\*) Removal of subventions to parastatals except those in the social sector and nationally strategic basic industries;
- (\*) Use of limited, realistic and decreasing deficit financing for infrastructure and productive investments that have little import content;
- (\*) Guaranteed minimum price for food crops managed through strategic food reserves.

**C. Pattern of Expenditure for the Satisfaction of Needs**

- (\*) Expenditure switching to social sector (without necessarily increasing total government spending):
  - . an average 30 percent of the annual public investment programme to be allocated to education, health and integration of women in the development process;
  - . maintaining the growth rate of public outlays on above sectors exceeding the population growth rate.
- (\*) Selective policies through subsidies, pricing policies etc. to increase supply of essential commodities;
- Selective trade policies to ban luxuries and high tax rates on conspicuous consumption; mass education towards consumption of domestic goods;
- (\*) Strengthening intra-African monetary and financial cooperation as well as clearing arrangements;
- (\*) Limitation of debt service ratios to levels consistent with sustaining and accelerating growth and development;
- (\*) Specific export incentives for processed exports and carefully selected primary export commodities;
  - . differential export subsidies;
  - . motivation for barter trade to boost intra-African trade;
  - . bilateral and multilateral agreements on primary export commodities.

**D. Institutional Support for Adjustment with Transformation**

- (\*) Supervised food production credit system in rural areas with ready access and easy terms such as limited collateral;
- (\*) Strengthening agricultural research focused on production; creation of extensive services for diffusion and application of research;

- (\*) Legislation on clear framework of ownership and participation of different socio-economic groups such as cooperatives, artisans, traders etc.;
- (\*) Establishment of community development institutions especially indigenous NGOs and self-help programmes;
- (\*) Greater mass participation in decision making and implementation of programmes.

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(\*) against a proposal implies it is unique to AAF-SAP

10. The experience of the African countries have shown that the adjustments which have been adopted are not socially neutral but entail some economic, social and political costs in terms of loss of income, reduced consumption, scaled-down investment, temporary displacement of labour, social unrest and political instability. For most countries undertaking them and persisting in the endeavour, it may be said that had those adjustments not been undertaken the socio-economic predicament could probably have been worst. Data are, therefore, required to monitor and evaluate the performance and impact of the policy reform measures.

11. Such monitoring and evaluation exercise should be preceded by providing statistical data on the status of the country's social and economic structure covering a maximum of 10-year period up to the point of stabilisation and structural adjustment intervention. Similar data should be collected after the intervention period. For the purpose of monitoring and evaluating the impact of adjustment, data will be required on changes in some basic indicators.

12. A number of studies point to the usefulness of the simultaneous introduction of a package of policy reforms; thus, the set of statistics required for monitoring and evaluating the performance and impact of policy reforms and development programmes is quite diverse and covers technical, social and economic data, and information.

13. When appropriately disaggregated, these statistics can provide a framework for a better understanding of the economy and of the performance and impact of various policy instruments.

14. However, for most African countries, statistics are usually presented in aggregated form at the national level and whatever disaggregation is allowed is usually inadequate to reflect spatial diversity and social differentiation (social groups) in a country. Where it is possible to have access to disaggregated data, this would improve the analysis and interpretation of the statistics. For example, where food supply is the primary concern, relevant data would be sought on agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP),

indices of food crop output, export crop output etc. It would then be necessary to define a set of key variables which will determine the state of the performance indicators:

- food demand will be influenced by real income, relative consumer prices etc.
- food supply will be influenced by relative product prices, input prices, the state of technology and institutional efficiency (availability and access to credit, land tenure arrangements etc.).

15. Following this would be a review of any quantitative evidence on the responsiveness of the performance indicators to changes in these variables, i.e. direction, degree of responsiveness, time lags etc.

### III. Statistical Requirements for Short-term Policy Reforms:

16. The statistical requirements for monitoring and evaluating short-term policy reforms are, of course, different from those for long-term development programmes. Short-term policy reforms, such as economic recovery and adjustment programmes, are geared to correct short-term disequilibria in the national economy, notably in such areas as:

- external and internal imbalances;
- debt management;
- price inflation;
- public sector management;
- food security, food supply and food distribution;
- employment;
- alleviation of the plight of economically disadvantaged groups, etc.

17. The above list is by no means exhaustive, but it does provide a "menu" to work with in determining what types of statistics would be required to monitor and evaluate the performance and impact of short-term policy reforms in African countries, given their specific needs and various stages of statistical development.

#### **A. Statistical requirements according to the policy reforms desired**

18. The statistics needed in these areas are listed below in respect of the policy reforms desired:

##### **(a) External and internal imbalances:**

- a1. Imports and exports (in value and quantum and unit value indexes, in total and by SITC Sections): annual and



quarterly. The total values of imports and exports should preferably be also on a monthly basis;

- a2. Direction of trade (i.e., by country) in values: both quarterly and annual;
- a3. Imports and exports (in quantity and value) by major commodities; quarterly and annual;
- a4. Imports by end-use categories (i.e., final consumption, intermediate goods, and investment goods): annual;
- a5. Trade in invisibles (based on exchange control records): annual and quarterly;
- a6. International terms of trade: annual;
- a7. Level of exchange reserves (in SDR's and US dollars), monthly: in absolute figures and as per cent of country's annual import bill;
- a8. External transactions account of a country (from national accounts): annual.

(b) Debt management:

- b1. Level (in national currency and an international one, say the U.S.\$) of external debt, by creditor and duration of maturity of debt (e.g., short-term and long-term) and type of debtor (e.g., government, private guaranteed by government, private firms etc.);
- b2. Data on debt service, debt repayments, and debt rescheduling.

Data for b1 and b2 should be available on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis.

(c) Price stability and inflation control:

- c1. Wholesale prices and price indexes: monthly;
- c2. Official producer prices for major export crops: monthly;
- c3. Consumer prices and price indexes for major towns: monthly;
- c4. Wholesale prices of staple foods (e.g., maize, rice etc.) and major commercial crops: Monthly or quarterly;
- c5. International agricultural commodity prices;

- c6. Government food subsidy payment: annual;
- c7. Volume of money supply (M1 and M2): monthly;
- c8. Exchange rates (official and parallel market rates): In case multiple exchange rates are practiced, data on such rates should be provided: weekly or monthly;

(d) Public Sector Management:

- d1. Government revenue by source and expenditure by purpose (especially on agriculture, health and education): annual;
- d2. Percentage of public expenditure on social services (social allocation ratio);
- d3. Percentage of social expenditure devoted to human priority concerns (social priority ratio).
- d4. Structural data on public enterprises (PEs) (e.g., size in terms of employment, share of PE employment in total employment, gross turnover, value added, wages bill, capital investment, fiscal contributions from PEs as a share of government revenue, government transfer to PEs as a ratio of government expenditure and kind of principal activity): annual;
- d5. Balance sheets and profit and loss accounts of these enterprises: annual;
- d6. Information on indirect taxes paid, and subsidies received, by public enterprises: annual;
- d7. Data on prices charged by selected public enterprises in the case of pseudo-monopolies (e.g., public utilities).

(e) Food Security and food supply:

- e1. Production (in physical quantities and per capita) of major food commodities, total for country and by region: annual;
- e2. Food sufficiency ratio (in percentages) in commodity detail: annual;
- e3. Level of strategic food stocks in commodity detail: monthly;

- e4. Imports (including relief supplies and food aid) of major food commodities (in quantity and value): annual and quarterly;
  - e5. Wholesale prices of staple foods in major towns: monthly;
  - e6. Annual food balance sheets: annual.
- (f) Employment creation:
- f1. Structure of employment in the organized (formal) sector, by kind of economic activity (e.g., number of establishments, employees by level of skill, wage rates, employment by sex and broad age group etc.) and region;
  - f2. Structure of capital investment in the organized sector by kind of activity and by sector (e.g., public or private) and location (e.g., administrative region);
  - f3. Structure of employment in the informal sector (e.g., numbers employed by kind of activity and region, sex and broad age groups, capital invested, prevailing wage rates in key sectors etc.): Such information would need to be collected by special surveys, e.g., labour force survey or surveys of the informal sector;
  - f4. Data on unemployment and under-employment in urban centers by characteristics, e.g., by kind of occupational groups, by sex and broad age groups;
  - f5. Data on possible negative effects of short-term structural adjustment programmes on urban employment (e.g., numbers laid off or on part-time, loss of wages, income and/or social benefits, loss of purchasing power due to price increases etc.): Such data would have to be gathered from administrative records or special surveys;
  - f6. changes in interest rates on bank loans for industrial, agricultural and small enterprise development.
- (g) Alleviation of conditions of the economically disadvantaged groups:
- g1. Data on unemployment in urban centres and characteristics of the unemployed (e.g., by occupation group, sex and age group etc.): Same as f4 above;
  - g2. Data on urban low-paid wage and salary groups, in terms of: numbers, average monthly pay, level of skill, etc. for:

- (i) government services;
- (ii) public enterprises; and
- (iii) the private sector

g3. Consumer price index numbers for:

- (i) General index;
- (ii) Food, beverages and tobacco.

g4. Data on special assistance schemes by government and other agencies targeted at the urban poor etc.

**B. Summary of Statistical Requirements for Short-term Policy reforms by type of Statistics:**

19. National Accounts: These cover global data on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by kind of economic activity and by expenditure categories, government final consumption expenditure, private final consumption expenditure, capital formation, external transactions etc. Such data series are needed for the formulation of short-term policy reforms (e.g., structural adjustment and economic recovery programmes) and for the monitoring and evaluation of their implementation.

20. Government Accounts: These include compilation and analysis of the revenues by source and expenditures of general government (central and local) by purpose (i.e., functional categories), and based on actuals or budgetary data. Such data are needed to measure the role and performance of general government in the national economy, apart from enterprises owned and/or controlled by government.

21. Accounts and statistics for Public Enterprises: Such data are usually gathered by annual establishment surveys (e.g., censuses or surveys of production) or special questionnaires to public enterprises engaged in trading and production activities. Together with general government, they constitute the "Public Sector", which is important in many developing countries, in terms of share of employment and GDP. However, due often to lack of profitability and large requirements of government subsidies, these enterprises are increasingly under scrutiny and are targets of privatization schemes. Statistics on their structure (e.g., kind of activity, size of employment, capital investments, gross output, value added, wages and salaries bill etc.) are increasingly required for policy reform.

22. External Trade Statistics: External trade statistics remain one of the major fields of administrative sources of data which are particularly useful for short-term policy reform and project formulation, as well as for long-term economic development initiatives in respect of the external sector. Apart from the

usual commodity-by-country statistics and data on direction of trade, analysis of exports and imports by end-use categories (i.e., final consumption goods, intermediate goods, and investment goods), and calculation of quantum and unit value indexes of exports and imports etc., will be needed on a timely and regular basis.

23. To be useful for policy decisions, detailed data would need to be available on an annual and quarterly basis; while data on trade totals and direction of trade should be compiled on a monthly basis.

24. Balance of Payments Statistics: As a complement to 4 above, annual and quarterly balance of payments statistics on invisible imports and exports based on exchange control records or other sources are essential to arrive at data depicting the external transactions of a country. Such data are essential for formulating trade policy and/or exchange rate policy and for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of such policies towards fulfilling their immediate objectives, and for subsequent modifications or otherwise of these policies.

25. Statistics on Prices and Price Indexes: These cover wholesale and retail prices and price indexes. At times of price inflation or stagflation, consumer price indexes can serve as indicator to measure the loss of purchasing power by consumers.

Wholesale (or producers') prices and price indexes are valuable to measure production and investment in terms of constant prices and consequently growth. For short-term formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policy reforms, these price indexes are a must and should be available on a monthly basis.

26. Money and Finance Statistics: These include the money supply (e.g., M1 for notes and coins in circulation plus demand deposits; and M2 i.e. quasi-money); foreign exchange reserves at end of each month; exchange rates statistics (official and parallel market rates); rates of interest; stock exchange quotations; etc. Credit/loans especially to small enterprise or small farmer. These are important ingredients for formulating short-term monetary policy.

27. Statistics on External Debt: For most developing countries, the domestic financial market has not been sufficiently developed. Their debts are essentially external debts. The monitoring of the level and composition of such debts and their proper management have become of great concern to the countries. Policies relating to debt servicing, rescheduling, and debt reduction/cancellation need to be constantly monitored and evaluated.

28. Food production and security statistics: This relates to the annual production, imports, and stocks statistics for major staple

food items and their wholesale prices; these statistics are needed for food security administering and famine relief programmes.

29. Employment and Unemployment Statistics: Such statistics are often a by-product of establishment surveys (e.g., annual Industrial Production Surveys; Surveys of Distributive and Services Trades etc.), or specially conducted Employment and Wages Surveys; while for the informal sector, recourse often has to be made to administrative records (e.g., employment exchanges), Labour Force surveys or specially conducted surveys of the informal sector. Apart from conceptual difficulties between definitions of unemployment and under-employment, there is also the question of data coverage, particularly with respect to the informal sector. For short-term policy reforms, the data needed are likely to be unemployment data relating to the urban areas.

30. Social Statistics: Education, Health, Women and Children: These important statistics are grouped together not because they are less important, but because for short-term policy reforms, such statistics are unlikely to vary too much from one year to the next, and are likely to be in less demand. Nevertheless, they should be regularly monitored to indicate any short-term problems that require urgent attention.

31. Other economic and social statistics: Under this heading may be included transport and communications statistics, energy statistics, industrial statistics, statistics on urban housing and related amenities therein (e.g. toilet facilities, water supply etc.), etc. Energy statistics deserve special mention. Apart from their importance for long-term development planning, short-term supply of energy to meet domestic demand is of strategic importance at times of a fuel crisis created by special circumstances, e.g., the Gulf War. It is essential that data on the fleet of transport and communications, stock of fuels, production of manufacturing and mining establishments etc., be kept current. These are needed not just for short-term policy reforms and review purposes, but are essential for the annual exercise of national accounts estimation.

32. It should be stressed here that most of the detailed statistics called for and included in the above list as needed for monitoring and evaluating short-term policy reforms, would have to be obtained from a variety of data sources including administrative records and establishment and household surveys, which may have to be specially organized to collect the information.

#### IV. Statistical Requirements for Long-term Development Programmes:

33. In contrast with short-term policy reforms, the longer-term development programmes usually have the following objectives:

- Sustainable development and higher level of standards of living;
- Structural transformation of the national economy;
- An equitable income distribution;
- Long-term employment creation;
- Alleviation of poverty and conditions of life of the economically disadvantaged segments of the population;
- Satisfaction of "basic human needs";
- Capability building; etc.

34. To formulate long-term development programmes and monitor and evaluate the progress of implementation of these programmes in the medium- and long-term, the statistical requirements are broader and deeper in the sense that more structural data in selected areas would be required in addition to current data. One would need, in particular, the following types of statistical data series, amongst others:

35. Population and Demographic Statistics: The increasing emphasis being placed on addressing the population issue establishes the need for a flow of information on demographic trends. The needed data would have to be generated from periodic population censuses and national demographic surveys, to obtain structural information on the sex, age distribution and other characteristics of the population (e.g., economic activity, occupation, literacy etc.) on a national and regional basis. Housing characteristics could also be obtained from such censuses and surveys. Such data would permit an assessment of school and health facilities needs of the population at regional and perhaps also at the district levels and enable socio-economic planning to be made accordingly. Similarly, the needs for job creation in the medium- and long-term at the regional level, could also be assessed.

36. National Accounts and Input-Output and Supply and Disposition Tables: These are grouped together as national accounts comprises estimates of GDP (gross domestic product), GNP (gross national product), NNP (net national product, or national income), National Disposable Income etc., from one or a mixture of three approaches of estimation, i.e., production, expenditure, and income. Input-output tables and much more simplified supply and disposition (SD) of goods and services tables, depict the structure of production and use of resources, based on the commodity flow or production approach. Such statistics would indicate the economic structure of a country and the interrelationships of production sectors to facilitate economic planning and plan implementation. More sophisticated constructions such as the SAM's Social Accounting Matrices (SAM's) would also be useful in this regard.

37. Statistics on Household Consumption and Expenditure: Such statistics would have to be built up, based on either the commodity flow method or household consumption and expenditure surveys or a combination of both. The objective is to estimate private consumption expenditure by object (i.e., purpose or commodity groups). Such data are needed to measure changes in standards of living and also to arrive at more accurate estimates of household consumption expenditure at more aggregate levels. To be more useful, the data would have to be obtained from across socio-economic groups of the population and be collected periodically, say, once every five years or so.

38. Social Statistics: Education, Health, Women and Children etc.: The emphasis in long-term development planning in the social areas would be on the building of human capacity and the necessary infrastructure in order to enable planned, sustainable economic and employment growth in the longer term. This would require an inventory of resources (human, infrastructural) in benchmark years as well as current data in such areas as health, education etc. Statistics on special topics such as women, children and the underprivileged segments of the population including refugees would also be needed.

39. Statistics of the Environment: This would include an inventory of selected natural resources (e.g., mines, petroleum deposits, forest and growing timber, fisheries etc.) at a particular reference date, estimates of discovery or depletion and degradation of natural resources (e.g., soil erosion, deforestation, mineral extraction etc.), costs of "defensive expenditures" to redress damages to the environment (e.g., pollution of air, water etc.), changes in climatic factors (especially threat of drought) etc.

40. Protection and amelioration of the environment should be one of the main objectives of long-term development programmes. Relevant statistics (basic and current) on the environment would be necessary to formulate, monitor and evaluate such programmes.

41. Statistics on Labour Force and Employment: One of the major development objectives of long-term plans or programmes is the creation of jobs and employment for the population. Consequently, basic and current statistics on the labour force and employment, under-employment and unemployment are needed to formulate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of these programmes.

42. Other Economic Statistics: Included in these are the basic as well as current statistics in the following areas:

- Agricultural production and prices;
- Industrial production;



- Fixed capital formation by type of capital good and by kind of economic activity and sources of financing;
- Prices and price indexes, including producers' and consumers' price indexes, export and import price indexes, etc.;
- External trade statistics and balance of payments;
- Money and finance;
- External debt and debt servicing;
- Accounts of government and para-statal enterprises; etc.

These have already been covered in Section A above for short-term policy reforms and will not be repeated here.

43. The picture would not be complete without mentioning briefly the statistical requirements for policy modelling. For short-term policy reforms as well as medium- and long-term development planning, it is usual to construct econometric or macro-economic models to project the development path or make simulations of policies in order to help the timely formulation of policies and follow up their implementation. The statistical series that are needed for such modelling exercises can easily be accommodated and provided in the framework of the data series in this paper.

## V. CONCLUSION

44. In the recent past, and in particular within the context of policy reform and structural adjustment, there has been increased awareness of the need to improve and strengthen information systems. Relevant, reliable, comprehensive and timely statistics are indispensable not only for designing and implementing development plans and reforms but also for monitoring and evaluation of such initiatives and strategies. In determining such statistical requirements, priorities cannot be established in isolation from country setting and the state of statistical development in each country. Monitoring and evaluation are meant to be continuous exercises requiring data from a variety of sources.

45. The Joint Conference is invited to critically examine the statistical requirements proposed in the document in relation to their applicability in countries of the African region, and may wish to suggest additional statistical requirements considered feasible for monitoring and evaluation of policy reforms and development programmes.