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**Fourth Meeting of the Committee on
Development Information (CODI IV)**

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**Report on ECA Statistical Activities during 2003-
2005 and Work Programme for the Biennium 2006-
2007**

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I. Introduction

1. This document provides an overview of the implementation of statistical activities since CODI III, and aims to obtain the views of the Sub-committee on the proposed work programme for the biennium 2006-2007. The presentation of this report is as follows: after the introduction, the second section presents the structure of the work programme 2004-2005. The third section deals with the implementation of activities from June 2003 to April 2005. The fourth section reviews the resources used to implement statistical activities at ECA while the fifth section deals with the proposed work programme for the biennium 2006-2007. Finally, the last section draws attention to issues for consideration by the Sub-committee.

1 Work Programme 2004-2005

2. The approved work programme for the biennium 2004-2005 is based on the following output categories:

- Substantive servicing of intergovernmental expert bodies and ad-hoc expert group meetings: substantive servicing, parliamentary documentation and other services provided;
- Other substantive activities:
 - Recurrent publications
 - Non-recurrent publications
 - Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits
 - Technical material;
- International Cooperation and interagency coordination and liaison; and
- Technical cooperation.

3. Details of the implementation of the above activities appear in Appendix III. It is worth noting that the approved work programme does not contain all activities performed by the Statistics Team during the period under review. Additional activities emerged after the original work programme was approved. These included: the servicing of first meeting of the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA); the statistical newsletter; the servicing of the first meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV); the workshop on International merchandise trade statistics; the workshop on Environment Statistics; and the design and the update of the statistical website.

2 Activities Implemented during the Period June 2003-April 2005

4. In the area of statistical development, in line with its work programme, the Commission carried out several activities.
5. In 2003, the Commission produced a series of recurrent publications including: the Statistical Yearbook, the African Socio-economic Indicators, and the Compendium of Environmental Statistics. During the same period, a workshop on the Organization and Management of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) reviewed in-depth statistical organization and management issues in Africa.
6. Promoting awareness among member States and partners on the importance of statistics was of particular concern. To this end, the statistics team produced a poster for African Statistics Day, which was distributed to NSOs throughout the region. The celebrations of the Day, held on 18 November, offered the opportunity to increase public awareness on the important role of statistics in adequate policy-making.
7. For the first time, there was radio coverage of this celebration, provided by *Radio France International*. In addition, several seminars and open discussions were organized in member States surrounding the theme of “Measuring to Manage,” as well as on emerging issues arising from the promotion of statistical development in Africa. National Statistical Offices made the commitment to place the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) among the top monitoring priorities of the statistical community, and to promote quality statistical information that will guide development management.
8. The Commission held several meetings involving partners and stakeholders to discuss issues related to statistical development in African countries including: the ICP Government Board Meeting; the launching meeting of the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA); and the Committee on Development Information (CODI). As a result of these exchanges, the Commission recognized, during the year 2004, the critical role of reliable statistics in policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation, especially in addressing the new development agenda including the MDGs, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD).
9. Following this recognition and in order to boost statistical development in Africa, particular attention was given to the preparation, by ECA, of a strategic framework designed to engage partners in a coordinated statistical development process that would ensure African countries are equipped with statistical systems capable of supporting their economic, political and social development efforts in a sustainable manner. The Commission prepared its framework for action based on this strategic framework. The two documents were submitted for comments to the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA).

10. ECA, the African Development Bank (ADB) and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century Consortium (PARIS21) during the reporting period jointly established a Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV). It examined the strategic framework and recommended a deep revision, in order to provide a Reference Regional Strategic Framework that will meet the expectations of all the stakeholders in statistical development in Africa.

11. In 2004, ECA also designed a website dedicated to statistical activities for better information sharing and more visibility. The website presents, *inter alia*, information on NSOs, past and ongoing activities as well as links to partners and other stakeholders' websites.

12. The Commission also initiated the development of a prototype model for the ECA regional statistical database following a comprehensive data needs assessment conducted during the third quarter of 2004. Under the guidance of the statistics team, a consultant has launched the development of the database. It is expected that the new regional information system being initiated at ECA would provide, when completed, a prime source of statistical data directly accessible to potential users within and outside the Commission.

13. With respect to international and inter-agency cooperation, the Secretariat attended a preparatory inter-institutional meeting on the coordination of statistical capacity building work in Africa. Moreover, it participated in some major meetings like the Statistical Commission, the Coordination Committee of Statistical Activities, and the PARIS21 consortium, among others. A list of activities covering the period under review appears in appendix II.

3 Resources Used to Achieve Statistical Activities at ECA

14. The statistics team utilized available resources to deliver the outputs described in the work programmes covering the period under review. Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning that more could have been done with additional human and financial resources.

15. The statistics team at ECA, as per the last CODI meeting (May 2003), was functioning with three regular-budgeted professional staff members, a regional adviser on Organization and Management of National Statistical Systems, and six General Service (GS) posts. Stakeholders, partners and ECA itself considered inadequate staffing as a serious impediment to the completion of statistical activities given the growing needs in statistical developments, as stated in the ABSA launching meeting report.

16. Since CODI IIII, the staffing situation of the ECA statistics team was characterized by the retirement of two professional staff members and the loss of two statistical assistants—one having moved to the professional level in another division, while another left the Commission.

17. The Commission launched a recruitment process to overcome the understaffing situation that resulted from all these changes. Accordingly, it has recruited three new professionals as part of regular-budget professional posts. Two of the newly recruited staff members joined the Commission in September and October 2004 while the latest one joined the team at the beginning of January 2005. In addition, two statistical assistants were hired in 2004. The Commission has also hired two consultants for a period of six months from February to July 2004 to support the statistics team and a third one, since July 2004, to implement the ECA database project. The net effect to date is a total of four professional staff members, one regional advisor, six GS posts and two vacant professional posts as a result of the two retirements. The current list of statistics staff members is provided in appendix I to this report.

4 Proposed Work Programme 2006-2007

18. In addition to regular outputs appearing in previous work programmes, the work programme 2006-2007 was tailored to strengthen African countries' capacity to produce socio-economic data. In this regard and provisional to obtaining suitable funds, it is proposed to initiate some projects aimed at strengthening national capacities.

19. Firstly, a field project aimed at strengthening national capacities in the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts in collaboration with regional and sub regional organizations such as the African Development Bank (ADB) (ICP-Africa) and AFRISTAT (Common Minimum Statistics Programme- PROSMIC), has been added to the proposed programme. It will consist of the provision of advisory services, group training, development and/or dissemination of methodological guidelines, manual and software, and research activities. This field project is subject to extra budgetary fund availability.

20. Secondly, the Commission has prepared, under the United Nations Development Account framework, a project proposal aimed at strengthening the capacity of African Statistical Systems to generate gender-disaggregated data to support policies to promote gender equality and empowerment of women. This project will involve the ECA's Statistics Team and the African Center for Gender Development (ACGD). Moreover, it will be conducted with the collaboration of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), and the International Labor Organization (ILO).

5 Issues for Consideration by the Sub-Committee

21. The sub-committee may wish to provide its view, and recommendations on the following issues:

- Implementation and programmed output since the last CODI meeting (June 2003 to April 2005);
- Proposal for activities to be implemented during the remaining part of 2005;
- Proposals for activities to be included in the draft work programme for the biennium 2006-2007;
- Orientation on Statistics at ECA; and
- The 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses.

**Appendix I: List of ESPD Statistician Posts
(Regular-Budgetary staff)**

Title	Name	Remarks
Regular Budget Staff (April 2005)		
Statistician	Andre Andriantseho	Joined in September 2004
Statistician	Bakary Dosso	Joined in October 2004
Senior Statistician	Dimitri Sanga	Joined in January 2005
Statistician	Oumar Malick Sy	
Total 2005	4	With two vacant posts
Total 2003	3	
Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation		
Regional Adviser	Awa Thiongane	
Total 2005	1	
Total 2003	1	
Statistical Assistant Posts		
Number of Posts	6	
Total 2005	6	
Total 2003	6	

Appendix II: List of Activities Implemented during the Period June 2003 – April 2005

Ad hoc Expert Group Meetings

Annual meetings of the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA 2004)

Participation in Other Meetings, Conferences and Seminars

- The 15th Session of the Conference of the Directors of African Statistical Training Centres (Paris, France, 2 July 2003) and the 8th Steering Committee of the 8 ACP TPS 115 Project (Paris, France, 4 July 2003)
- The 54th Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) (Berlin, Germany, 13-20 August 2003)
- The Second Regional Workshop of ICP-Africa (Johannesburg, South Africa, 13-17 December 2003)
- The third session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (New York, USA, 1 March 2004)
- The 35th Session of the United Nations Statistical commission (New York, USA, 1-5 March 2004)
- The second meeting of the ECOWAS Statistical Programme (ECOSTAT) (Cotonou, Benin, 1-3 September 2004)
- The 2nd meeting of the international household survey network (IHSN) (Geneva, Switzerland, 27 September 2004)
- The interagency and expert meeting on MDGs indicators (Geneva, Switzerland, 28 September – 1 October 2004)
- The steering committee meeting of the project on strengthening statistics capacity building in support to the MDGs in the region of the ECOWAS, and seminar on statistical organization and user producer relations (Accra, Ghana, 22-25 November 2004)
- PARIS21 Seminar on National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) for French Speaking East African Countries (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2-4 December 2004)
- Meeting on Statistical Capacity Building in Africa (Tunis, Tunisia, 31 January- 2 February 2005)

Recurrent Publications

- African Statistical Yearbook (2003, 2004)

- Integrated national and sub regional economic social and environmental indicators (2004)
- African socio-economic indicators (2003, 2004)
- Compendium of Intra-African and Related Foreign Trade Statistics (2003, 2004)

Documents/Studies

Two reports to ABSA I (2004) and FASDEV I (2004):

- Statistical Development in Africa: A strategic Framework
- Statistics at ECA: A Framework for Action

Three reports to CODI IV Statistics Subcommittee on:

- Follow-up to the recommendations of CODI III;
- Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) in Africa; and
- ECA Statistical Activities during the Period 2003-2005 and Work Programme for the Biennium 2006-2007.

Booklets, Pamphlets, ...

- Promotional materials for African Statistics Day (2003, 2004)

Special Events

- African Statistics Day (2003, 2004)
- Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV 2004)

Technical Materials

- Regional statistical database (ongoing)

Training, Workshops...

- Workshop on organization and management of statistical systems (Addis Ababa, November 2003)
- Seminar on organization and management of statistical systems for ENEA-DSD students (Dakar, Senegal, 19-24 February 2004)
- International merchandise trade statistics (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, November 2004)
- Seminar on organization and management of statistical system for ENEA-DSD students (Dakar, Senegal, 19 – 24 February 2004, 27 January-2 February 2005)

- UNSD/ECOWAS/ECA Workshop on Environmental Statistics (Dakar, Senegal, 28 February – 4 March 2005)
- UNV/Johns Hopkins University/ECA Seminar on the United Nations Handbook on Nonprofit Institutions in the System of National Accounts (Nairobi, Kenya, 10-11 March 2005)

Fellowship

In terms of visiting scholars, fellows and interns on Household Surveys, poverty indicators and analysis, the Commission has received interns from the Abidjan-based statistical training center ENSEA.

Start-end date: 16 August - 22 November 2003

Undertaking research, analysis and drafting of a report on the following themes:

- “Which Scale of Equivalence for Poverty Measurement?” and
- “The Impact of Trade Agreements on Intra-UMEOA Trade: Evaluation of a Gravity Model in Panel”.

Start-end date: 3 August - 29 October 2004

Undertaking research, analysis and drafting of a report on the following themes:

- “Scope and determinants of the literacy rate of the 15-24 years old in Sub-Saharan Africa” and
- “Human Capital, Fertility and Economic growth in Africa.”

Appendix III: Approved Work Programme for 2004-2005

1. Substantive Servicing of Intergovernmental Expert Bodies

- The fourth meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI) and its Subcommittee on Statistics (2005);

2. Parliamentary Documentation

Three reports to CODI IV Statistics Subcommittee on:

- Follow-up to the recommendations of CODI III;
- Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) in Africa; and
- ECA Statistical Activities.

3. Recurrent Publications

- African socio-economic indicators;
- African Statistical Yearbook;
- Integrated National and Sub-regional Economic, Social and Environmental Indicators; and
- Compendium of Intra-African and Related Foreign Trade Statistics.

4. Non-Recurrent Publications

- Study on the Organization and Management of National Statistical Offices/Institutes; and
- Study on the Use of Geographic Information Systems in National Statistical Offices for Data Collection and Poverty Mapping.

5. Booklets, Fact Sheets, Wall charts, Information Kits

- Promotional materials for African Statistics Day (posters and press communiqués)

6. Special Events

- African Statistics Day (18 November)

7. Technical Materials

- Website; and

- Regional statistical database.

8. Group Training /Workshops

- Workshop on organization and management of national statistical offices/institutes;
- Workshop on the organization and management of development information, including dissemination on the Web and use of geo-information in statistical offices; and
- Workshop on compilation of national accounts within the framework of the 1993 SNA and use of national accounts for policy analysis.

9. Fellowships

Three fellowships to enhance capacity in household surveys, poverty measurement and analysis.

Appendix IV: Proposed Work Programme for 2006-2007

1. Servicing of Intergovernmental and Expert Bodies:

- **Parliamentary Documentation:**

Two reports to CODI-V Statistics Subcommittee:

- Progress report on the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Statistical Development in Africa;
- Report on status of implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts in African countries (2007).

- **Other Services**

Two meetings of the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA) (one in 2006, one in 2007)

2. Other Substantive Servicing

- **Recurrent Publications**

African Statistical Yearbook (one in 2006, one in 2007)

- **Non-recurrent Publications**

Measurement of the Informal Sector (2007)

- **Booklets, Fact sheets, Wall Charts, Information Kits**

- Promotional materials for African Statistics Day: posters and press communiqués (in 2006 and in 2007)
- Statistical information kit

- **Special Events**

- African Statistics Day (in 2006 and in 2007)
- Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV) (2007)

- **Technical Materials**

ECA statistical database, including household survey files (ongoing)

3. Technical Cooperation

- **Advisory Services**

Advisory services to build capacity in various areas of statistical development.

- **Fellowship**

Visiting scholars, fellows and interns to enhance capacity in development issues, policy analysis, household surveys and poverty measurement and analysis.

- **Field Project**

Strengthening national capacities in the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts in collaboration with regional and sub regional organizations such as the African Development Bank (ADB) (ICP-Africa) and AFRISTAT (Common Minimum Statistics Programme- PROSMIC), etc. The project will focus on the provision of advisory services, group training, development and/or dissemination of methodological guidelines, manual and software, and research activities.