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26 April 2001

**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Tenth Meeting of the Coordinating Committee
on African Statistical Development (CASD)

25 – 26 April 2001
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

REPORT OF THE MEETING

I. Opening and duration of the meeting

1. The Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development (CASD) held its Tenth meeting at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa from 25 to 26 April 2001.
2. The meeting was opened by Ms. Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane, Director, Development Information Services Division (DISD), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

II. Attendance

3. The meeting was attended by
 - Members representing ECA member states: 6
 - Members representing Regional Statistical Training Centres participating in the Regional Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA): 2
 - Members representing African regional and sub-regional organisations: 3
 - Members representing non-African bilateral and multilateral agencies and donors: 6
 - Observers: 6

The List of participants is attached as Annex IV to the present report, and the membership of CASD is attached as Annex V to this report.

III. Documentation

4. The documents before the Committee at its Tenth meeting are listed in Annex III to the present report.

IV. Account of proceedings

A. Opening Statement

5. Ms. Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane, Director, DISD welcomed the participants and opened the meeting.

B. Election of officers

6. Mr. Koffi Nguessan, Director, Ecole Nationale Supérieur de statistique et d'Economie Appliquée d'Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (ENSEA) was elected Chairperson of the meeting and Mr. Xavier Mugisha, Ag. Director, Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISEA) was elected Rapporteur.

C. Agenda and organisational matters (Agenda item 3)

7. The meeting adopted the agenda contained in document ECA/DISD/CASD.10/1/Rev.1, a copy of which is attached as Annex I to this report.

8. The Secretariat presented some practical information for participants and also the organisation of work contained in document ECA/DISD/CASD.10/1/Inf.4, a copy of which is attached as Annex II.

Presentation of the report on the evaluation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s (AAPA) (Agenda item 4)

9. The Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the CASD Task Force meeting of 23 to 24 April 2001 - (ECA/DISD/CASD.10/01/3) and,
- (b) An evaluation of statistical development in Africa in the context of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s overall report – (ECA/DISD/CASD.10/01/2.Rev.1).

Actions taken by the Committee

10. The Committee:

- (a) Took note of the report of the Task Force;
- (b) Agreed that the objectives and principles of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa were still valid; however they needed updating on account of recent socio-economic and technological developments;
- (c) Noted that there were problems of ownership with the AAPA, including difficulties with the monitoring and mobilisation of funds for its implementation;
- (d) Noted further that some countries had benefited extensively from using the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the formulation of their statistical development plans;
- (e) Agreed to focus its deliberations on the detailed consideration of the report on the evaluation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s, along the following topics:
 - (i) Knowledge, ownership, relevance and weaknesses of the AAPA;
 - (ii) Development of National Statistical Systems (NSS);
 - (iii) Role of International organisations, bilateral and multinational donors, regional and sub-regional organisations; and,

- (iv) Conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation.

Detailed consideration of the report on the evaluation of the AAPA (Agenda Item 5)

11. The Committee continued its consideration of the evaluation of statistical development in Africa and decided to start with a general debate on the Evaluation Report followed by a detailed examination of the main findings of the evaluation along the themes identified in the Report then a review of the conclusions and finally a review of the recommendations.

Actions taken by the Committee

12. The Committee:

- (a) Decided to make the following changes to the Report:

(i) Paragraph 83 was amended to read as follows:

“The mission of the ADB is to provide financial resources and technical assistance for social and economic development in African countries. The Bank has provided funding for stand-alone statistical projects and statistical components have been incorporated in some ADB funded projects in African countries. However, ADB assistance for statistical development in Africa has not been systematic and regular. In addition, ADB has installed the “Live Database (LDB) System” which was developed by the World Bank. The LDB has facilitated the creation of an online central database, which is accessible to over 500 Bank staff. Furthermore, ADB collects, processes and publishes data on member countries as well as on co-operation for Africa’s development.”

(ii) Paragraph 84: the last sentence was amended to read as follows:

“Where data are not available from countries, or sometimes even where the data are available, ADB Divisions (including the Statistics Division) have tended to use data from international organisations like the World Bank and IMF.”

(iii) Paragraph 104: At the end of the paragraph, the following was added:

“Interest expressed by the international community of donors, in particular the IMF and the World Bank, in enhancing African Statistical Capacity.”

(iv) Paragraph 133: Sub-heading ‘Government’, 3rd bullet, the following was added:

“Establish a policy aimed at increasing the ratio of females in the permanent staff (e.g. via a deliberate quota system)”

- (v) **On page 20: the sub-heading ‘Specific Recommendations’ above paragraph 133 was deleted.**
- (vi) **Paragraph 133: Transfer the first sentence “Detailed recommendations are given in Annex 1.” to the end of the paragraph.**
- (vii) **Paragraph 133 on page 22: After the section on ECA and after the 10th bullet, insert the following:**
 - “OAU**
 - **Play an advocacy role to ensure that governments allocate adequate budgets for the National Statistical Services and for building capacity for producing regular and timely statistical data;”**

Other Briefings (Agenda Item 6)

13. The Committee had before it presentations made by representatives of ECA on the Compact for African on Recovery (Agenda item 6.1) and the briefing on Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) Learning Group (Agenda item 6.2), on AFRISTAT (Agenda item 6.3) made by a representative of AFRISTAT, on PARIS 21 (Agenda item 6.4), made by a representative of the PARIS 21 Secretariat, on IMF Statistical activities (Agenda item 6.5) made by a representative of the IMF, and the US Bureau of the Census international supporting activities (Agenda item 6.6) made by the US Bureau of the Census.

Compact for African Economic Recovery (Agenda Item 6.1)

Action taken by the Committee

14. The Committee:
- (a) Noted the importance of statistics within the context of the evolving development agenda in ECA, namely the Compact for African Recovery;
 - (b) Noted also that African Economic Recovery in the 1990’s had failed to reduce poverty;
 - (c) Emphasized the use of the best data available in member States and international organisations as well as in ECA substantive Divisions, DISD in particular, by establishing regular consultation with the latter division in order to improve its data bases.

Briefing on the PRSP Learning Group (Agenda item 6.2)**Actions taken by the Committee**

15. The Committee:

- (a) Took note of the presentation made by a representative of ECA on the PRSP Learning Group, a program aimed at promoting synergies and exchanges between institutions, experts and countries for the improvement of poverty knowledge and capacities in building and implementing strategies to fight poverty;
- (b) Took note also of the synergy of opportunities the programme offers in the field of knowledge of poverty and the related information requirements;
- (c) Recommended, if possible, the preparation of and exchange within this framework, of an exhaustive list of African Experts.

AFRISTAT (Agenda item 6.3)**Actions taken by the Committee**

16. The Committee

- (a) Noted the objectives, sources of financing, operating mode, management structures, methods of work, achievements, and the prospects in the short, medium and long terms of AFRISTAT;
- (b) Proposed the creation of similar institutions in other parts of Africa in order to provide Africa with adequate coordination mechanisms for the development of statistics.

PARIS21 (Agenda item 6.4)**Actions taken by the Committee**

17. The Committee:

- (a) Noted that PARIS21 was not an organization but rather a process arisen out of international concerns on the lack of capacity for measuring progress towards the achievement of international development goals;
- (b) Noted also that the objectives of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for African Statistical Development in Africa and PARIS21 were similar, the differences being that the latter was more recent and premised on Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, establishment of Indicators for achievement of international development goals, country ownership, partnership and donor coordination;

- (c) Welcomed the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building and its objectives of strengthening statistical capacity in developing countries;
- (d) Considered the challenges and opportunities for sharing experiences widely between ECA, PARIS21 and the partners;
- (e) Considered further the areas of current debate, namely: governance and accountability, the need for enhancing coordination, the role of the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building, and the need for resolution of competing agendas;
- (f) Commended PARIS21 for its contribution to statistical development in Africa and for promoting a culture of evidence-based decision making;
- (g) Stressed the importance of sharing experiences and publicizing best practices widely;
- (h) Emphasized the importance of the African Statistics Day and its importance in highlighting the pivotal role of statistics in the African development agenda and that advocacy should also be undertaken at the highest level;
- (i) Urged countries to use the opportunity provided by the African Statistics Day to promote inter-country visits and the exchange and sharing of experiences;
- (j) Urged also that both quantitative and qualitative data should be used in assessing poverty reduction strategies;
- (k) Encouraged countries and institutions including regional organizations to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building in support of the PRSP process and economic and social development of the region;
- (l) Recommended that the African voice in PARIS21 should be unified and strengthened and that coordination between ECA and PARIS21 should be strengthened;
- (m) Recommended further that south-south cooperation should be promoted and used as a means of rooting technical cooperation in African realities.

Briefing about IMF statistical activities (Agenda item 6.5)

Actions taken by the Committee

18. The Committee:

Took note of the presentation made by the IMF representative about the statistical activities of the IMF, particularly with regard to:

- (a) Providing training and technical assistance;
- (b) Promoting standards and codes in data production;
- (c) Promoting the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS), and
- (d) Improving transparency in official statistics elaboration.

Briefing about the Census Bureau's international supporting activities (Agenda item 6.6)

Actions taken by the Committee

19. The Committee:

Took note of the activities of the Census Bureau International Program Center relating to:

- (a) Promoting information exchange;
- (b) Providing technical assistance to countries;
- (c) Providing large scale training programmes;
- (d) Disseminating publications;
- (e) Developing software analysis tools in different fields of statistics and mostly demographic statistics and the availability of the software to countries and institutions of the region.

The way forward (Agenda item 7)

20. The Committee had before it a document prepared by the secretariat on the way forward (ECA/DISD/CASD.10/01/4).

Actions taken by the Committee

21. The Committee:

- (a) Noted the evolution of different agendas on the socio-economic development of Africa and that during the course of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action new initiatives on poverty international development goals had been adopted;

- (b) Noted also the evolving Compact for African Economic Recovery and the efforts of African Leaders in drawing up the Millenium Partnership for the African Recovery Programme (MAP) and the Omega Plan for Africa within the context of the initiatives of the African Heads of State and Government;
- (c) Emphasized that all the initiatives for African Economic Recovery required strong statistical capabilities at the national, sub-regional and regional levels and the promotion of evidence-based decision making;
- (d) Considered the different options for a follow-up to the evaluation of statistical development in Africa which included: (a) another Plan of Action, (b) establishment of guiding principles for statistical development or (c) formulation of a framework for statistical development.
- (e) Emphasized the need to take note of the diversities in statistical development, differences in history and cultural development, importance of coordination at national, sub-regional and regional levels and the need to ensure that all actors participated fully in the promotion of statistical development in Africa so as to consolidate resources and ensure optimal coordination of efforts;
- (f) Agreed to recommend that there should be a follow-up action to the evaluation of statistical development in Africa. The nature of the action to be taken would be determined by the member States at the second meeting of the Committee on Development Information scheduled to meet from 4 to 7 September 2001.
- (g) Called on the Secretariat to continue and promote the review of the nature and direction of follow-up action even through electronic discussion lists;
- (h) Urged for flexibility in the context of political developments that would follow after the Lusaka Summit of OAU Heads of State and Government, specifically issues relating to the establishment of the Union of African States.
- (i) Urged further that whatever action is adopted, it must allow for the introduction of a rolling programme to be reviewed at regular intervals and by a strengthened secretariat.

Workshop on measuring and monitoring good governance in Africa (Agenda item 8)

22. A representative of the secretariat presented this agenda item. It was noted that the output of the project would be a report on the State of African Governance. The report will

have three broad headings, namely: purpose, components of research instruments and challenges and way forward.

23. The purpose of the governance report is to emphasise the key role of the State in good governance and poverty reduction and to sensitise, reach consensus and agree on a set of values and practices on good governance for monitoring progress in African countries and dissemination of best practices.

24. The research results would be both qualitative and quantitative indicators. Three broad areas of indicators covering political representation, institutional effectiveness and economic management would be identified.

25. Strengthening of the capacity of national partner institutions and improvement of the quality of data (validation, reliability) was emphasized.

26. During the discussions participants raised questions regarding the relationship between the work of ECA with those of other institutions (IMF, AFRISTAT) and the recommendations of the workshop organized by the Switzerland CSO recently in Montreux on the same subject. The venue of the workshop was not yet established. However national focal points would coordinate all aspects of the project and would be invited to the workshops.

27. Participants alluded to the financial implications as well as the technical problems that would be encountered at the national level in launching the project. It was noted, however, that a committee of experts from various disciplines would be in charge of implementing the project, starting with a national workshops. ECA planned to organize country workshops in each of the 15 countries selected for phase 1. With respect to the financial issues, assistance from donor partners like UNDP at country level and ADB would be sought.

Any other business (Agenda item 9): Proposal for a web site/page on “Statistical Development Country Profiles of African countries

28. The Committee took note of a proposal for a website on statistical development in African countries presented by the Secretariat.

Action taken by the Committee

29. The Committee:

- (a) Took note of a similar initiative by UNSD and of the two new sites on:
 - (i) Good practices in official statistics, and on
 - (ii) Statistical Methodologies;

- (b) Recommended establishment of the necessary links with the websites of National Statistical Offices where such websites exist, as well as with those of sub-regional and regional institutions, including bilateral and multilateral partners dealing with statistical development in Africa;
- (c) Agreed to build the same for all the institutions, in order to fill information gaps and increase awareness of statistical activities in Africa;
- (d) Encouraged member States to assist in defining the content to be posted on the website, in anticipation of the decision relating to the adoption of a Plan of Action or a Framework as a successor to the AAPA;
- (e) Requested ECA to explore ways of introducing a product similar to the integrated programme of work; and,
- (f) Agreed to open access to the website to all member States.

Adoption of the report of the tenth meeting of CASD and the evaluation of report on the implementation of AAPA (Agenda item 10)

30 The Rapporteur introduced the revised evaluation report and the report of the tenth meeting of CASD. The Committee adopted the Evaluation report as amended.

31. The Committee agreed to receive the final draft report of the meeting for review and adoption by a specified date, and entrusted the Rapporteur and the Secretariat to finalize the report thereafter.

Closure of the meeting (Agenda item 11)

32. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the consultants for the quality of the evaluation report, to the Secretariat for servicing the meeting and for coordinating the evaluation of statistical development in Africa.

33. The Committee also expressed appreciation to all the participants for their active, spontaneous, positive and constructive contributions toward a vision for African Statistical Development.

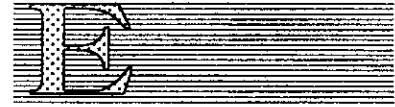
34. The Chairperson then declared the meeting closed.

Annex I



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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

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25 – 26 April 2001
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Provisional Agenda

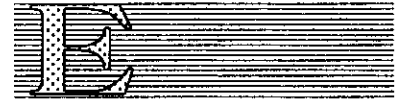
1. Opening Statements
2. Election of Chairperson
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organisational matters
4. Presentation of the report on the evaluation by the Chairperson of the Task Force
5. Detailed consideration of the report on the evaluation of Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s
6. Special briefings
 - 6.1 Compact for African Recovery
 - 6.2 PRSP Learning Group
 - 6.3 AFRISTAT
 - 6.4 PARIS 21
 - 6.5 IMF
 - 6.6 US Bureau of the Census
7. The way forward
8. Workshop on measuring and monitoring good governance in Africa
9. Any other business
10. Adoption of the report of the tenth meeting of CASD and the evaluation report on the implementation of the AAPA
11. Closure of the meeting

Annex II



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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Tenth Meeting of the Coordinating Committee
on African Statistical Development (CASD)

25 – 26 April 2001
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

V. PROVISIONAL TIME TABLE

Provisional Time Table

Wednesday, 25 April 2001

Morning

08:30 – 09:45	Registration of participants
09:45 – 10:00	Opening Statement
10:00 – 10:30	Election of Chairperson and adoption of the agenda and other organisational matters
10:30 – 10:45	Tea/Coffee Break
10:45 – 11:15	Presentation of the report on the evaluation of the AAPA by the Chairperson of the Task Force
11:15 – 13:00	Detailed Consideration of the report on the evaluation of the AAPA

Afternoon

14:30 – 15:45	Detailed consideration of the report on the evaluation of the AAPA (continued)
15:45 – 16:00	Tea/Coffee Break
16:00 – 17:00	Detailed consideration of the report on the evaluation of the AAPA (continued)
17:00 – 18:00	Special briefings <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Compact for African Recovery- PRSP Learning Group

Thursday, 26 April 2001

Morning

09:00 – 10:30 Special briefing (continued)
- AFRISTAT
- PARIS 21

10:30 – 10:45 Tea/Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:45 The way forward

12:45 – 13:00 Any other business

Afternoon

15:00 – 16:30 Workshop on measuring and monitoring good
governance in Africa

16:30 – 17:00 Tea/Coffee Break

17:00 – 18:00 Adoption of the Conclusions and Recommendations of
the Tenth Meeting of CASD

Closure of the Meeting

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

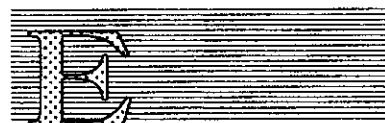
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Provisional list of documents

Doc no.	Symbol	Document title
1	ECA/DISD/CASD.10/01/Inf.1	Provisional list of participants
2	ECA/DISD/CASD.10/01/Inf.2	Provisional Timetable
3	ECA/DISD/CASD.10/01/Inf.3	Information for Participants
4	ECA/DISD/CASD.10/01/Inf.4	Provisional list of documents
5	ECA/DISD/CASD.10/01/1	Provisional agenda
6	ECA/DISD/CASD.10/01/2	Draft report on the evaluation of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s
7	ECA/DISD/CASD.10/01/2.Rev1	Draft report on the evaluation of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s as revised by the CASD Task Force, 23 to 24 April 2001
8	ECA/DISD/CASD.10/01/3	Report of the CASD Task Force meeting of 23 to 24 April 2001
9	ECA/DISD/CASD.10/01/4	The way forward
9	ECA/DISD/CASD.10/01/L	Draft Report of the CASD meeting of 25 to 26 April 2001

Annex IV



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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Tenth Meeting of the Coordinating Committee
on African Statistical Development
Addis Ababa
25 - 26 April 2001

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