



62491

Distr.: LIMITED

E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/16/Add.1
1 July 1999



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

First Meeting of the Committee on
Development Information (CODI)

28 June - 2 July
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations of the Ninth Meeting of the
Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development, 24-25 June, Addis Ababa**

Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations of the Ninth Meeting of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development, 24-25 June, Addis Ababa

1. The 9th CASD meeting was held in Addis Ababa June 24 – 25 June 1999 and was attended by 15 members of the committee. It was chaired by the representative of the African Development Bank, Mr. Charles Leyeka Lufumpa
2. The meeting considered the report of the secretariat to the CASD, progress reports in the implementation of task forces and selected issues on statistical development. In view of its importance the meeting decided to include a new agenda item on the “Relevance of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action and the future of the CASD”. In addition the meeting included presentation on software products of the US Bureau of the Census, International Programs Center (IPC).
3. In the report of the CASD to the secretariat the meeting emphasised the importance of ECA developing a Minimum Regional Statistical Programme as an instrument for better coordination of statistical activities.
4. The CASD welcomed the development of the Manual on improving the quality of African statistics and requested it be widely dissemination. It re-emphasized the need for coordination in the reduction of the burden on member States in regard to questionnaires originating from various institutions.
5. As you may be aware, the work of CASD has since 1996 centred on the implementation of task forces. Since that time five task forces were formed and their reports were considered by the committee at this meeting. The task forces are: connectivity for statistics; Monitoring the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action; Strengthening of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) centres; Data bases and data banks; and Gender in the national accounts. Details are available in the individual report of task forces and the report of the ninth meeting.

Under the task force on Monitoring the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action, the Committee recommended that a new strategy should be prepared to take into account new challenges in African statistical development.

6. On the relevance of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action and the future of the CASD, the Committee:
 - a) recognised the continuing relevance of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action and that the situation regarding statistical development had changed over the decade;
 - b) recommended that a formal evaluation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action should be under taken and should include a review of the CASD.
 - c) formed a task force of members of the Committee to draft terms of reference for the evaluation of the Addis Plan and a timetable for preparation of the new strategy; noted that the reference timeframe for Addis Ababa Plan of Action as now almost at an end and made proposals for continuation of CASD work through the creation of a working group of CODI. It was proposed that the working group would meet more frequently than CODI which now meets every two years;
 - d) agreed that CASD would however have to meet one more time to discuss the result of the evaluation and proposals, if any, for a new strategy to guide statistical development in Africa.

7. Two items were considered under the agenda item "selected issues on statistical development in Africa": the first item was on improving the quality of African statistics; and the second item was on partnership for statistical development. On improving the quality of African statistics, the Committee urged that issues raised be used as resource for the formulation of the new strategy for the period 2000 and beyond. On partnership for statistical development, the Committee requested ECA to conduct a survey of technical cooperation activities between other regional and subregional organisation and their parties to enable a better understanding and exchange of information in the field of statistics.
8. In conclusion CASD was agreed to meet in twelve months time in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.