

**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR AFRICA**



610791085  
**NATIONS UNIES  
COMMISSION ECONOMIQUE  
POUR L'AFRIQUE**

**CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE ON AFRICAN  
STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT  
(CASD)**

**Draft Terms of Reference**

## **Introduction**

The Co-ordinating Committee on African Statistical Development (CASD) is open to all actors in statistical development in Africa. The following terms of reference delimit the scope of activities and respective responsibilities of the Committee.

In accordance with the provision in the Strategy for the Implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s and with the consent of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers (PSD), the "Co-ordinating Committee on African Statistical Development" is hereby established. By the mandate of PSD, the implementation of the Plan of Action will be monitored by ECA Statistics Division assisted by the Committee.

## **Justification**

In order to allow African countries to draw maximum benefit from programmes and actions foreseen in the context of the Strategy for Implementing the Addis Ababa Plan of Action, in particular to properly coordinate activities and support provided through the international system, the Committee should act as the principal coordinating body at the regional level. Its activities are meant to complement and reinforce in-country co-ordination. By including the representatives of the PSD in this arrangement, the communication on activities between regional and national actors will be improved. The continuous cooperation with national, sub-regional and regional institutions will also allow the donor community to have improved feedback on the use of resources and to better respond to increasing needs of African countries and institutions.

## **Functions**

The Committee will:

- (a) conduct regular reviews of the overall progress made by countries in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action;
- (b) set up mechanisms for the continuous exchange of information among all agencies;
- (c) promote and review the implementation of specific activities, e.g. provision of guidelines, standards etc. at regional and international levels;
- (d) assist ECA in reporting to the PSD on the progress made on various aspects related to the Addis Ababa Plan of Action;
- (e) consider specific issues referred to it by the PSD or any other organization.

**Membership:**

All interested actors in statistical development in Africa should, as they may wish, be members of the Committee:

Given its role in working towards the development, adaptation and harmonisation of concepts, standards and methods, the Committee should include representatives of the subregional organizations such as ECOWAS, PTA and SADCC so that the work of the Committee anticipates statistical demands arising from the efforts towards regional integration.

On the basis of their respective mandates, inter-governmental bodies such as the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the African Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) should be represented along with all UN agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors.

Non-Governmental organizations such as the African Statistical Association shall also be represented in the Committee.

Thus, the membership will comprise of:

- i) The Bureau of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers;
- ii) Representatives of sub-regional organizations;
- iii) IGOs and NGOs;
- iv) Multilateral and bilateral donors and UN agencies;
- v) Representatives of regional training centres.

**Secretariat:**

The Secretariat of the Committee shall be attached to the ECA Statistics Division and shall be responsible for the overall monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy.

**Meetings:**

The Committee will meet, at least once a year at ECA Headquarters, Addis Ababa, unless otherwise agreed. The meeting of the Committee shall be presided over by the chairperson who shall be elected at each meeting of the Committee without prejudice to re-election. The Committee may invite representatives of African countries or any other persons or organizations to attend its meetings.

### **Sub-Committees**

The Committee shall establish sub-committees in accordance with the technical requirements arising from the implementation modalities. Initially the following sub-committees will be established in the areas listed below with the proposed conveners:

<b>Sub-Committee</b>	<b>Convener</b>
1. Training	EUROSTAT/ODA/CESD
2. Management of Statistical Offices	World Bank/ECA
3. Research, Methods and Standards	UNSO/ILO
4. Data Sources (censuses, surveys, administrative records)	UNFPA/UNSO/AFRISTAT
5. Data processing	USAID/Statistics Sweden
6. Regional information system including data bases	ADB/ECA

Each convener will be responsible for the composition of the membership of the sub-committee, taking into account the interest of agencies in the sub-committee, without prejudice to discretionary joint convenership and bearing in mind the need to include representatives of African countries.

**Functions of sub-committees:** Each sub-committee shall draw up its own terms of reference and conduct its business according to its **modus operandi**. In drawing up terms of reference, the sub-committee should be guided by the functions of the Committee. It should also take into consideration two possible aspects of its functions, namely:

- i. Co-ordination
- ii. Substantive work

The sub-committees will submit periodic reports on their activities to the Committee. One such report may well be a comprehensive review of ongoing and planned technical co-operation activities.

### **Task forces**

The Committee and/or any sub-committee may establish task forces or commission individuals to handle specific assignments, if necessary.

### **Relationship with other bodies**

Inter-governmental bodies such as the UN Statistical Commission, the ACC sub-committee on statistical activities, the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, the Population Commission and the Agricultural Statistics Commission, etc... will, through ECA, be kept informed on the work and progress made by the Committee.