



SPECIAL FOCUS/ATTENTION PARTICULIÈRE:

- 44th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission
-44ème session de la Commission de statistique de l'Organisation
des Nations Unies p.3



44th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission - New York, 26 February to 1st March 2013
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“The effectiveness of national planning systems hinges largely on the quality and availability of data. Data informs the setting of priorities and facilitates the tracking of performance.”

Dr. Carlos Lopes, UN Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa

“L’efficacité des systèmes nationaux de planification repose largement sur la qualité et la disponibilité des données. Les données informent la mise en place des priorités et facilitent le suivi des performances.”

Dr. Carlos Lopes, Sous-Secrétaire Général et Secrétaire Exécutif de la Commission Economique des Nations Unies pour l’Afrique

FROM THE DIRECTOR, ACS - MESSAGE DU DIRECTEUR DU CAS

Dear readers,

In recognition of the importance of statistics in the development process, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has strived to build the statistical capacity of African countries in support of their development efforts since its inception. In fact, through its African Centre for Statistics (ACS) and in collaboration with other Pan African institutions, several initiatives towards statistical capacity building have been initiated and implemented leveraging on each partner's comparative advantage through better coordination and collaboration mechanisms. While it can legitimately be claimed that progress has been made since the inception of the ACS in 2006, there is still a number of challenges to be addressed to bring the statistical development of the African continent to the level that will effectively help it support and own its development narrative. The latest change in the leadership at the ECA led to a repositioning of the Commission in December 2012. The rationale behind the latest repositioning lays in the need to respond to the opportunities and challenges posed for Africa by changing international and continental landscapes. As the world is changing, Africa is changing too. It was therefore imperative that the ECA changes also. Accordingly, the ECA has recalibrated itself and its work building on what is outstanding from its past and present and based on its main comparative advantage, which is being a knowledge institution, to meet the challenges of a changing Africa. In doing so, it intends, among others, to generate the policy thinking that would help African countries own their development efforts and narrative. To achieve this, the Commission tables on the generation of research and policy knowledge, advocating policy, promoting policy consensus, and offering capacity development and advisory services in different thematic areas contributing to the development agenda of African countries. As can be expected, statistics are at the forefront of this generation of policy research and knowledge. In order to enable the refocused ACS meet the objectives of the new ECA strategic orientation, its structure and core functions were revisited. Accordingly, the Commission has elevated the ACS to be the biggest division of the refocused ECA with two new sections namely the Geo-information and Sectoral Statistics Section and the Data Technology Section in addition to the existing ones namely the Demographic and Social Statistics Section, the Economic Statistics and National Accounts Section, and the Statistical Development Section. The Cen-



**Dimitri Sanga, Director
African Centre for Statistics**

Chers lecteurs,

Reconnaissant l'importance de la statistique dans le processus du développement, la Commission Economique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique a mis tout en œuvre dès sa création pour renforcer les capacités statistiques des pays africains, en soutien à leurs efforts de développement. De ce fait, à travers le Centre Africain pour la Statistique (CAS) et en collaboration avec les autres organisations panafricaines, plusieurs initiatives visant le renforcement des capacités en

statistique ont été mises en œuvre, en tirant le meilleur profit de l'avantage comparatif de chaque partenaire à travers des mécanismes efficaces de coordination et de collaboration. Bien qu'il soit indéniable que des progrès aient été accomplis depuis la création du CAS en 2006, il reste toujours un certain nombre de défis à relever afin de porter le niveau de développement statistique du continent africain à un niveau qui lui permettrait de s'approprier et de supporter efficacement son processus de développement. Le dernier changement en date dans le leadership de la CEA a entraîné un repositionnement de la commission en décembre 2012. La raison de ce repositionnement est la nécessité de répondre aux opportunités et aux défis posés à l'Afrique par le changement du paysage continental et international. Le monde est en train de changer et l'Afrique est en train de changer aussi. Par conséquent, afin de relever les défis d'une Afrique changeante, la CEA s'est réadaptée et a réaligné ses actions, prenant en compte les éléments saillants de son passé et de son présent et tirant profit de son principal avantage comparatif, qui est d'être une institution du savoir. Ce faisant, elle a l'intention, entre autres, d'engendrer une nouvelle réflexion sur les politiques socio-économiques qui aiderait les pays africains à s'approprier leur développement. Pour ce faire, la commission mise sur la création de savoirs liés à la recherche et aux politiques économiques en faisant un plaidoyer pour les politiques socio-économiques, en promouvant le consensus et en offrant des services de renforcement de capacités et des services de conseil dans différents domaines thématiques qui contribuent à l'agenda de développement des pays africains. Comme on peut s'y attendre, la statistique est en première ligne de ce processus axé sur la recherche et la gestion des connaissances. Afin de permettre au CAS d'atteindre les objectifs découlant de la nouvelle orientation stratégique de la CEA, la structure du centre, ainsi que ses fonctions principales, ont été revues. En conséquence, la commission a élevé le centre au rang de plus grande division de la nouvelle CEA à travers l'ajout de deux nouvelles sections à savoir la section de « géo-informa-

FROM THE DIRECTOR, ACS - MESSAGE DU DIRECTEUR DU CAS

tre has a staff complement of more than sixty people. In addition to the new ACS configuration, each of the five ECA Sub Regional Offices (SROs) acts as a Sub Regional Data Centre collecting development information and building the capacity of member States in different areas of statistics. The new orientation in statistics at the ECA entails an exploration of alternative data collection operations. The ECA intends to support the collection, processing, analysis, dissemination and archiving of data in three main categories that are: Data labeled as official statistics that are already being collected using manual processes, with a view to improving the process through the application of ICT; Data labeled as official statistics, but which are not being collected regularly with a view to identify why they are not being collected regularly and where the application of ICT might alleviate the current problems and improve their collection and availability; and Data that are not usually classified as official statistics, but for which there is a recurrent need, with a view to establishing procedures for collecting them regularly using modern technology.

On another note, chief statisticians from all over the world converged to New York to participate in the 44th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) and related side events. The Commission is the apex entity of the global statistical system and is the highest decision making body for international statistical activities with respect to the setting of statistical standards, the development of concepts and methods and their implementation at the national, regional and international levels. One hundred thirty-three countries (of which 31 African countries) represented by their national statistical offices (NSOs) and 47 international agencies participated in the 44th session of the Commission. Among the 24 members elected by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) were the following African countries: Botswana, Cameroon, Morocco, Niger and Tanzania. Cameroon was elected as rapporteur of the Commission. The Commission considered issues for discussion and for information. Issues for discussion are presented to the Commission for decisions and issues for information are not discussed during the session. This edition covers a number of issues related the 44th session of the UNSC.

We continue to encourage the statistical community in Africa and outside the continent to send us articles and any information of interest to the statistical development of the continent for publication in the Newsletter. Readers and contributors might also consider sending us reactions to and feedback on the materials we publish.

Finally, we are providing in this and future issues the editorial policy of the Newsletter, which provides guidance on how to prepare and submit an article for publication.



tion et des statistiques sectorielles » et la section de « technologies des données ». Ces deux nouvelles sections s'ajoutent à celles déjà existantes qui sont la section des statistiques démographiques et sociales, la section des statistiques économiques et des comptes nationaux, et la section du développement statistique. Le centre a été doté d'un personnel de plus de soixante personnes. En plus de la restructuration du CAS, chacun des cinq offices sous-régionaux de la CEA sera un centre sous-régional de collecte d'informations sur le développement et de renforcement des capacités des Etats membres dans différents domaines de la statistique. La nouvelle orientation de la fonction statistique à la CEA inclut une exploration des méthodes alternatives de collecte des données. La CEA envisage de soutenir la collecte, le traitement, l'analyse, la dissémination et l'archivage des données dans trois catégories principales : les données classifiées comme statistiques officielles qui sont déjà en train d'être collectées à travers un processus manuel, l'objectif étant d'améliorer le processus de collecte avec les nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication ; les données classifiées comme statistiques officielles qui ne sont pas collectées sur une base régulière, l'objectif étant d'identifier les raisons pour lesquelles elles ne font pas l'objet d'une collecte régulière et de trouver dans quelle mesure l'application des nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication peut aider à surmonter les problèmes liés à leur disponibilité et leur collecte ; les données qui ne sont pas considérées comme statistiques officielles mais pour lesquelles il y a un besoin récurrent, le but étant d'établir des procédures pour leur collecte régulière en tirant profit des technologies modernes.

Sur un autre plan, les statisticiens en chef venant du monde entier se sont rassemblés à New York pour participer à la 44ème session de la Commission de statistique des Nations Unies. La commission est l'organe suprême du système statistique global et sa plus haute instance de décision pour les activités statistiques internationales en ce qui concerne la mise en place de standards, le développement de concepts et de méthodes et leur mise en œuvre aux niveaux national, régional et international. Plus de cent trente-trois pays (dont trente et un pays africains), représentés par leurs offices nationaux de statistique, et quarante sept organisations internationales ont pris part à la 44ème session de la commission. Parmi les 24 membres élus par le Conseil Economique et Social (ECOSOC) se trouvent les pays africains suivants : Le Botswana, le Cameroun, le Maroc, le Niger et la Tanzanie. Le Cameroun a été élu rapporteur de la commission. La commission a passé en revue divers sujets pour décision ou pour information. Les sujets soumis pour discussion sont présentés à la commission pour décision tandis que les sujets soumis pour information ne sont pas discutés pendant la session. Ce numéro couvre un certain nombre de sujets liés à la 44ème session de la commission.

Nous continuons à encourager la communauté statistique en Afrique et à l'extérieur du continent à nous envoyer des articles et des informations d'intérêt portant sur développement statistique du continent pour publication dans le Bulletin. Les lecteurs et les contributeurs sont aussi invités à nous envoyer leurs observations et leurs réactions sur les articles que nous publions.

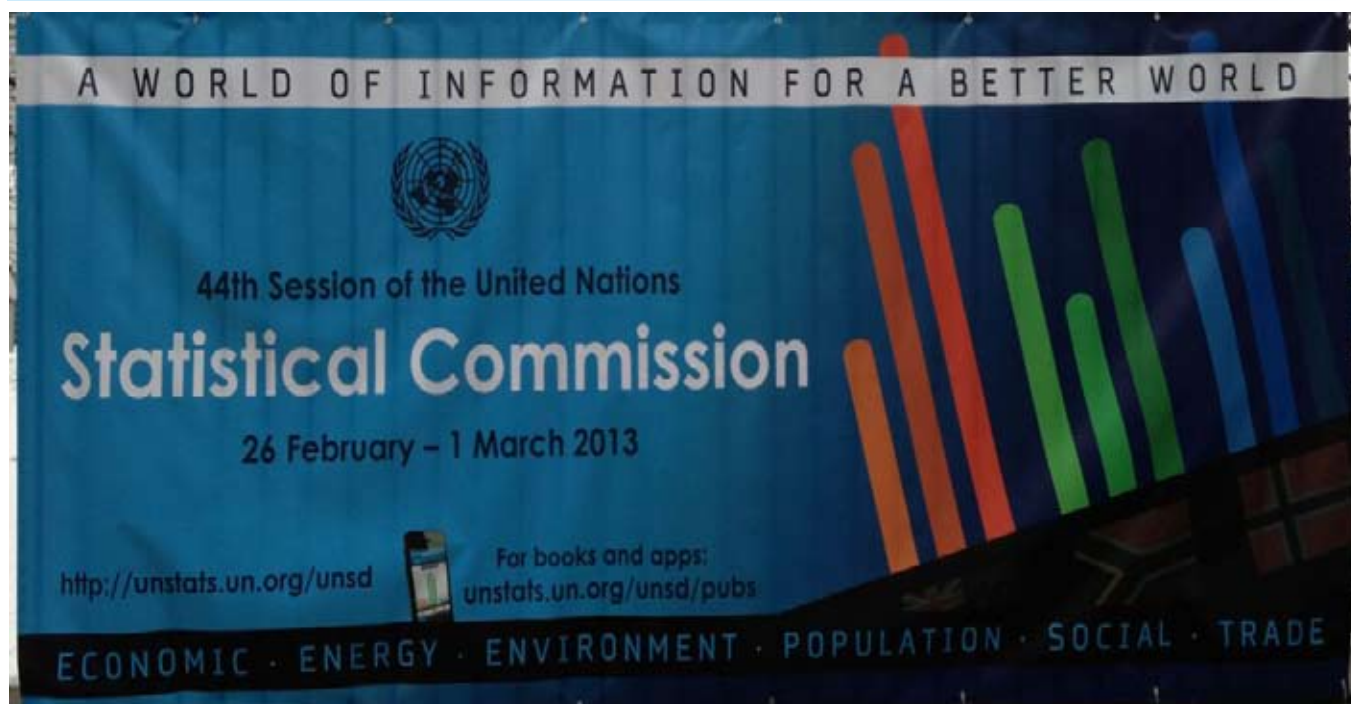
Finalement, nous incluons dans ce numéro la politique éditoriale du Bulletin, qui fournit des conseils sur la façon de préparer un article et de le soumettre pour publication.



44TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION
44ÈME SESSION DE LA COMMISSION DE STATISTIQUE DES NATIONS UNIES

44th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

44ème Session de la Commission de statistique des Nations Unies



Banner of the 44th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission
 Banière de la 44ème Session de la Commission de statistique des Nations Unies

The United Nations Statistical Commission is the apex entity of the global statistical system and the highest decision making body for international statistical activities with respect to the setting of statistical standards, the development of concepts and methods and their implementation at the national, regional and international levels. The main objectives of the Statistical Commission are to:

- promote the improvement of statistics and statistical methods;
- promote the development of national statistics and improve their comparability;
- advise the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information;
- coordinate the statistical work of specialized agencies.

The 44th Session of the Statistical Commission took place in New York from 26 February to 1st March 2013. 133 countries (of which 31 African countries) were represented by their national statistical offices (NSOs). In addition, international agencies participated in the 44th session of the Commission. Among the 24 members elected by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECO-

SOC) were the following African countries: Botswana, Cameroon, Morocco, Niger and Tanzania). Cameroon was elected as rapporteur of the Commission.

In addition to substantively contributing to the deliberations during the session of the UNSC, the representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) participated and contributed to the following events:

- Big Data for Policy, Development and Official Statistics;
- DFID Steering Committee with International Agencies;
- International Household Survey Network Management Group Meeting;
- UNSD/Regional Commissions coordination on statistical programmes;
- The coordination of the implementation programme of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics;
- Strengthening the capacity of African countries to use mobile technology to collect data for effective policy and decision making (organized by ECA);

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- Meeting of the Bureau and members of the Statistical Commission for Africa (organized by ECA);
- Linking people and socio-economic information to a location;
- 21st session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA);
- Seminar on census and vital statistics in Africa (organized by ECA);
- Meeting of the Global Steering Committee to implement the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural And Rural Statistics;
- Developing a programme for the implementation of the 208 SNA;
- Methodological tools for integrating agriculture into the national statistical system.

The session of the UNSC

The Commission considered issues for discussion and issues for information. Issues for discussion are presented to the Commission for decisions and issues for information are not discussed during the session.

Decision 1: Programme review: developing a statistical-spatial framework in national statistical system

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the programme review on developing a statistical-spatial framework in national statistical systems and expressed its appreciation to the Australian Bureau of Statistics for its excellent work; it also noted with appreciation the contribution of the 52 countries who had responded to the review questionnaire;

(b) Recognized the importance of the integration of geospatial information and statistics in order to support social, economic and environmental policy decision making, including at sub-national levels;

(c) Strongly supported the linking of social, economic and environmental data to a location in order to enrich and maximize the potential of statistical information; while noting the need to provide technical assistance to countries, developing countries in particular, in the early stages of the integration process;

(d) Welcomed the proposal of organizing an international conference as a way of reaching out and developing best practices, bringing together both statistical and geospatial professional communities, bearing in mind also the critical link with the informatics community, especially in the context of the current discussion on Big Data;



Picture from the sessions of the 44th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission
Photo des sessions de la 44ème Session de la Commission de statistique des Nations Unies

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(e) Welcomed the proposal to develop an international statistical geospatial framework, taking into account existing national and international efforts;

(f) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to establish an Expert Group composed of representatives of both statistical and geospatial communities to carry out work on developing a statistical spatial framework as a global standard for the integration of statistical and geospatial information, addressing various technical issues (e.g. the choice of basic units), but also institutional and information policy issues, especially those related to confidentiality; the Commission noted the expression of those interested in participating in the Expert Group and thanked the Australian Central Bureau for offering to provide continued leadership;

(g) Requested UNSD to report back to the Commission in due course.

Decision 2: Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed appreciation to the Friends of the Chair group for its work on revising the preamble of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and for conducting a survey on their implementation;

(b) Adopted the revised preamble of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics as contained in the background document and as orally amended;

(c) Reiterated the importance of the FPOS to be widely known and respected among users and producers of official statistics and in particular at the political level, both nationally and globally, and therefore decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly the endorsement of the FPOS, together with the newly revised preamble;

(d) Stressed the need to focus now on implementation and encouraged the Friends of the Chair group to conclude its work by formulating with the assistance of the Secretariat in UNSD, guidelines how to strengthen implementation, based on good practices developed at national and regional levels;

(e) Encouraged in this context the Friends of the Chair group to explore ways to effectively address perceived violations of the principles and to also reflect upon how the applicability of the principles could be extended beyond the realm of official statistics, specifically to the private sector.

Decision 3: National accounts

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report and expressed its appreciation of the work done by the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts over the last year;

(b) Commended the progress on making the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA) available in the official lan-

guages of the United Nations and expressed its appreciation to the institutions and countries involved in the translation process;

(c) Endorsed the programme of work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts; welcomed that priority will be given to address issues emerging from the SNA implementation, and requested the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts to report on the outcomes to the Commission in due course;

(d) Expressed appreciation for the activities undertaken by international organizations, regional commissions, other regional organizations and countries providing bilateral technical assistance to facilitate the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics;

(e) Appreciated the progress and completion regarding a number of manuals, handbooks and guidelines which facilitate the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics, and urged the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts to expedite the development of the handbooks and guidelines;

(f) Noted the outcome of the surveys on plans by countries for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics and expressed concern that, despite progress in a number of countries, many countries are still a long way from adjusting their collections of supporting statistics for implementing the SNA;

(g) Urged countries to develop strategic planning frameworks, taking into account their priorities for the national work programme for national accounts and supporting statistics to support evidence based policy making and to allocate sufficient resources for the statistical programme of work on the implementation of national accounts and supporting statistics;

(h) Requested UNSD, in collaboration with the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts, supporting countries and other regional organisations, to scale up coordination, advocacy and funding for the implementation of the SNA and supporting statistics at the national level where required by promoting stronger commitment by national governments to advance the work programme for national accounts and supporting statistics;

(i) Requested countries to support UNSD within this task, taking into account, among others, coordination, political engagement and funding at the national level, lessons learned from other international initiatives (like the International Comparison Program and the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics), sharing of national experiences, engagement of the national statistical system (including central banks and other ministries), as well as the data and meta data reporting mechanisms to regional and international orga-

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nizations, common existing software and other tools for the compilation of national accounts and the broader measures of progress presently considered by countries;

(j) Requested the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts to report to the

Commission in 2014 on the progress with the scaling up of coordination, advocacy and funding for the implementation of the SNA and supporting statistics;

(k) Recognized that the compilation of GDP is a fundamental statistical reporting requirement for countries and an essential element in the formulation of the statistical response to the work programme on the broader measures of progress, as articulated in the Rio+20 outcome document;

(l) Requested the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts and regional commissions to ensure that collection, validation and dissemination of the data collected from countries are harmonized and unnecessary duplication is avoided;

Decision 4: Environmental-economic accounting

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation for the work of the Committee of Experts on Environmental- Economic Accounting in delivering a significant work programme according to the agreed project management framework;

(b) Adopted the implementation strategy for the SEEA Central Framework recommending a flexible and modular approach and urged the Committee of Experts to agree on a medium term programme of work for the implementation of the SEEA, including progressing the issues on the SEEA Central Framework research agenda and the development of a core set of tables and accounts, to develop coordination mechanisms among the relevant international and regional agencies for effective management of the programme and actively seek funding to support the implementation activities;

(c) Requested the Committee of Experts to develop diagnostic tools, compilation guidelines and training materials in support of the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework and strengthening supporting statistics in collaboration with other international and regional agencies;

(d) Stressed the urgency to publish the SEEA Central Framework and to translate it in the official languages of the United Nations;

(e) Welcomed the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting as an important first step in the development of a statistical framework for ecosystem accounting. It encouraged its use by international and regional agencies and countries wishing to test and experiment in this new area of statistics;

(f) Recognized the policy demand for information on ecosystem accounting and requested the Committee of Experts to set priorities and develop a medium-term programme

of work with timelines and deliverables as well as a proper mechanism to address these issues considering the multidisciplinary nature of the topic;

(g) Welcomed the SEEA Applications and Extensions as a useful contribution to illustrate possible applications of the SEEA Central Framework and agreed with its process of finalization;

(h) Recognized the SEEA as a useful measurement framework to inform several policy frameworks, including but not limited to green economy and green growth, sustainable development and various international initiatives. It urged that the SEEA be promoted in the context of the discussions on measurement frameworks in the follow-up of the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference, the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post 2015 development agenda;

(i) Welcomed progress made in the drafting of the SEEA-Energy and recognizing the advance stage of the draft and the policy demand agreed with the suggested process to take into account the contributions of the members of the different Groups (London, Oslo and Eurostat) and finalize the SEEA-Energy to be adopted by the Bureau of the Commission in-between sessions;

(j) Noted with appreciation the progress of work on the implementation of the SEEA-Water.

Decision 5: Environment statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation for the work done by UNSD and recognized the significant contribution of the Expert Group on the Revision of the FDES as well as countries and organizations that participated in the revision and consultation process;

(b) Commended on the timeliness of the FDES 2013 with regard to the important role of high quality environment statistics in analysis and informed policy and decision-making in support of sustainable development,

(c) Endorsed the FDES 2013 as the framework for strengthening environment statistics programmes in countries;

(d) Endorsed the Action Plan and the establishment of an Expert Group on Environment Statistics, noted the interest of several countries to participate in the Expert Group, and requested the development of the Terms of Reference of the Expert Group including timetable and reporting mechanism;

(e) Stressed the importance of strong coordination between the implementation of the FDES 2013 and that of the SEEA Central Framework;

(f) Emphasized the need for supporting the FDES 2013 with detailed methodological guidance and training material that build on existing methodological resources where

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available and are coordinated with ongoing methodological work in related fields of statistics;

(g) Recognized the urgency to publish the FDES 2013 in all official languages of the United Nations;

(h) Stressed the need of countries at early stages of development of their environment statistics programme for increased technical assistance and capacity building, and called on international organizations for support.

Decision 6: International trade statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed and appreciated the report on international trade statistics;

(b) Recognized the need for an overarching measurement framework for international trade and economic globalization, taking into account the existing frameworks and guidelines, notably the System of National Accounts, Balance of Payments, and the Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics, as well as the research and studies done by Eurostat, OECD, IMF and various working groups;

(c) Also recognized the need for an appropriate mechanism for coordination of the work on international trade and economic globalization, ensuring to account fully for the functions of the existing expert groups, working groups and task forces at international and regional level;

(d) Agreed to the creation of a “friends of the chair” group to prepare a concept paper on the scope and content of the framework, and on the appropriate mechanism for coordination of the work in this area. In this connection, a number of countries expressed their interest in participating in this group;

(e) Requested that a clear time table and terms of reference be prepared for the work of the “friends of the chair” group as soon as possible;

(f) Requested that the concept paper of the “friends of the chair” will take into account the different levels of statistical sophistication and of available resources of national statistical systems and will make provisions for corresponding different milestones for the implementation of envisioned recommendations;

(g) Requested that the “Friends of the Chair” pay special attention to the topics of confidentiality of micro-level data, on legal aspects of data collection and sharing, and on the interconnectedness of economic and financial cross-border relations.

Decision 7: Agricultural statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Congratulated the Global Steering Committee on the report and on the excellent work done since its establishment in December 2011;

(b) Took note with appreciation of the significant progress made in the implementation of all areas of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, including the development of the governance mechanisms at global and regional levels and the mobilization of the required resources;

(c) Appreciated the efforts to establish collaboration and partnerships for better coordination of capacity building efforts and research in agricultural statistics, and the work that FAO and many partners are undertaking in developing cost-effective methodologies and tools;

(d) Encouraged the Global Steering Committee to further streamline the research agenda and capacity building activities with an initial focus on improving methodologies for the measurement of crop production, areas, yields and for food security monitoring;

(e) Encouraged FAO and all participating partners to accelerate the implementation of the Global Strategy recognizing the significant impact that this will have on the capacity of countries to produce reliable and timely agricultural statistics;

(f) Highlighted the important role that regional participating partners play in the implementation of the global strategy, by facilitating exchange of good practices, encouraging south-south cooperation and allowing better tailored technical assistance and training;

(g) Requested countries, resource partners and other donors to further support the implementation of the Global Strategy and mobilization of resources required for filling the funding gaps;

(h) Took note of the preparations for the Sixth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics to be held in Brazil in October 2013;

(i) Endorsed the report of the Global Steering Committee, the proposed priorities and way forward.

Decision 8: International Comparison Programme

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme and the progress in the implementation of the 2011 Round of the Programme;

(b) Acknowledged that the International Comparison Programme has tremendous implications for countries, in particular in terms of developing their capacity to collect and compute price data and to compile national accounts;

(c) Expressed its appreciation to all the partners who are supporting the International Comparison Programme, in particular the bilateral donors, the Executive Board, the Global Office at the World Bank, and the Technical Advisory Group, as well as the regional coordinating agencies for providing technical assistance and financial support to the countries;

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(d) Appealed for participants to strictly adhere to data submission timetables so that the 2011 Round can proceed according to the planned timeline and that final results can be released in December 2013, without sacrificing data quality;

(e) Reiterated the criticality of associating metadata with relevant statistics and urged countries participating in the Programme to submit all required price and national accounts metadata in a timely manner;

(f) Expressed its appreciation of the efforts being made to ensure that the results for the 2005 Round of the Programme are revised to reflect revisions of countries' GDP expenditure data sets;

(g) Appreciated the increased focus on the transparency in the International Comparison Programme methods and processes, welcomed the upcoming release of the book "Measuring the Real Size of the World Economy", and urged the World Bank and regional coordinating agencies to step up their efforts to disseminate and increase the usefulness of the results of the 2011 Round;

(h) Welcomed the adoption of the 2011 International Comparison Programme Data Access Policy to increase the usefulness of the Programme's data to the user community;

(i) Urged the Executive Board of the International Comparison Programme to propose a practical approach for the evaluation of the 2011 Round, with the goal of building on the capacity and the momentum gained during the last two rounds of the Programme, for consideration at the 45th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2014.

Decision 9: Gender statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics and commended the work done by the United Nations Statistics Division and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) during 2012;

(b) Expressed its appreciation on the development of standards, methodological guidelines, and training manuals on gender statistics, in particular on time use and violence against women;

(c) Welcomed the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project, jointly implemented by the United Nations Statistics Division and UN-Women, and emphasized the need to ensure that the work carried out is in line with the Global Gender Statistics Programme;

(d) Supported the proposed next steps under the Global Gender Statistics Programme to provide training and assistance to strengthen the capacity of countries to produce and disseminate gender statistics and to use gender statistics for policy making;

(e) Agreed on the use of the minimum set of gender indi-

cators, developed by the IAEG-GS, as a guide for the national production and international compilation of gender statistics, requested further clarification on the protocols of data collection from countries as well as detailed metadata, and requested further consideration on indicators on valuation of unpaid work and migrants;

(f) Encouraged for gender statistics to be more integrated into other areas of official statistics such as national accounts and sustainable development indicators;

(g) Recognized that additional resources are needed to further develop and implement the national work programme on gender statistics and requested the donor community to devote adequate resources to this area;

(h) Expressed its appreciation on the work of the Friends of the Chair on indicators of violence against women, and noted that the group successfully completed its tasks and therefore can be terminated;

(i) Welcomed the proposal of Mexico to host the 5th Global Gender Forum in 2014;

Decision 10: Crime statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report and expressed its appreciation to the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for preparing the elaborate road map for improving crime statistics;

(b) Supported the proposed activities presented in the road map and suggested that the ambitious list of activities be further prioritized and a more detailed timetable be developed;

(c) Welcomed the suggestion to establish a group of experts from both the statistical and criminal justice fields to monitor the implementation of the road map for improving crime statistics within the framework of the UN Statistical Commission and the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

(d) Stressed the importance of coordination at national level and invited national statistical authorities to initiate and establish close co-operation with criminal justice system institutions at national level, thus establishing a national framework for collecting and crime and criminal justice statistics;

(e) Approved the plan to finalize by 2015 an International Classification of Crimes for statistical purposes and noted that such classification will serve as a powerful methodological tool for harmonization and for improving international and regional comparability;

(f) Requested UNODC to provide technical support to countries in improving crime and criminal justice statistics, as necessary and subject to availability of resources;

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(g) Welcomed and expressed its appreciation to Italy for considering to host the Second International Conference on Crime Statistics in 2014;

(h) Requested UNODC to report to the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-six session in 2015 on the progress made in the implementation of the roadmap.

Decision 11: Health statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the World Health Organization (WHO) on health statistics (E/CN.3/2013/12) and acknowledged the important work done by WHO in the development of health statistics;

(b) Expressed concern about the inadequate consultation and coordination between WHO and the international statistical community in the area of health statistics, and called for an effective cooperation among WHO and relevant inter-agency working groups and international agencies;

(c) Called for effective cooperation and collaboration among the WHO, national statistical offices and line ministries involved in the production of health statistics;

(d) Expressed deep concern that the development of a model disability survey by WHO did not take into account the significant work already carried out by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, and urged close collaboration in developing the survey to avoid confusion and duplication of efforts;

(e) Expressed concern that the 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) might be too complex and challenging for countries to implement, and requested WHO to give sufficient time to the revision process and to subject the revised classification to field test and assessment before adoption;

(f) Acknowledged that civil registration and vital statistics are an important element of national statistical systems, noted the lack of a global coordination mechanism in this area, and called upon the United Nations Statistics Division, the regional commissions and relevant regional and international organizations to strengthen national capacity for enhancing civil registration and vital statistics systems;

(g) Called attention to the need to sustain data collection efforts in the area of health statistics, including through the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), recognized in particular the importance of health statistics in the context of monitoring progress in relevant MDGs, and encouraged countries to scale up their data collection efforts for the final MDGs assessment in 2015;

(h) Acknowledged the challenges of using administrative data from the health sector and the other fields related to health such as nutrition and social protection for the pro-

duction of health statistics, and called upon relevant international and regional organizations to help strengthen national capacity with a view to improving the collection and analysis of health statistics at the national level.

Decision 12: Coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations system

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Reiterated the need for effective coordination of statistical work among UN system agencies, and international agencies in general;

(b) Took note of the work done by the Friends of the Chair and agreed with the proposed work program, in particular with the focus on developing a quality framework;

(c) Welcomed the offers by the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities and UN agencies to support the work of the Friends of the Chair; and

(d) Encouraged the Friends of the Chair to initiate a reflection process on larger issues of cooperation and coordination beyond official statistics.

Decision 13: Regional statistical development in Africa

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the comprehensive report on regional statistical development in Africa and thanked the Economic Commission for Africa for the preparation of the report;

(b) Extended its appreciation to the Economic Commission for Africa for the exhibition set up for the session;

(c) Took note of the progress made by African countries with the help of pan-African organizations (the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank) and other partners to accelerate the strengthening of statistics in support of their development efforts;

(d) Called upon African countries and development partners to give high priority to statistics in their development programmes and to support the mainstreaming of statistics in country development processes, including growth and poverty reduction strategies;

(e) Called upon all African countries to improve the implementation of their national strategies for the development of statistics; as well as on African Governments and development partners to scale up their assistance in providing the needed technical and financial support for the implementation of the national strategies for the development of statistics;

(f) Called upon development partners to support African countries through coordination mechanisms put in place by African stakeholders, namely the Statistical Commission for Africa, the Reference Regional Strategic Frame-

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Picture from the sessions of the 44th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission
Photo des sessions de la 44ème Session de la Commission de statistique des Nations Unies

work for Statistical Capacity-Building in Africa and the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa;

(g) Encouraged the Bureau and Secretariat of the Commission to reflect upon the objective, format and content of future reports on regional statistical development.

Decision 14: Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission: Response to Rio+20 Mandate for Broader Measures of Progress

The Statistical Commission

(a) In its capacity as the designated “intergovernmental focal point for the elaboration and the review of the indicators used by the United Nations system”, in response to the specific mandate provided by the Rio+20 conference decided to launch a work programme to develop broader measures of progress;

(b) Recognized the importance of developing adequate measures to support the evolving debate on sustainable development policy decision making both at national and international level, and noted, in this context, that significant work has already been done in past years and is currently being carried out by the Commission itself (e.g. MDG and SEEA)

as well as by national, regional and international organizations;

(c) Noted that, even if it is not likely that any single measure will capture today’s complex development notion and that it will take time to develop a set of technically solid and globally agreed upon measures of progress; there is a need to start as soon as possible the work in this direction;

(d) Stressed that “broader measures of progress” have to be part of a larger information

infrastructure/architecture to support development policy decision making at all levels and need therefore be linked to the evolving SDGs and any framework that will support the post-2015 development agenda.

(e) Insisted that the statistical community needs to be adequately involved in the discussion on new development frameworks, in order to advise early on any formulation of targets and indicators;

(f) Expressed concern that the statistical capacity of many countries (especially, but not exclusively developing countries) is limited and that significant investments for statistical capacity over the coming years will be necessary so

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that statistics for sustainable development are themselves sustainable.

(g) Supported the formation of a Friends of the Chair group to build a work programme to develop broader measures of progress based on a stocktaking exercise of current national, regional and international practices in this field; the FOC (Friends of the Chair group) is also tasked to conduct a technical review of these existing efforts with a view of identifying good/best practices and to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, especially for the benefit of developing countries. Furthermore, the Commission asked the FOC, to closely monitor, the ongoing debate on development frameworks and keep the Bureau of the Statistical Commission informed, facilitating, thus a continuous interface between the political and the statistical sphere and requested the Secretariat to assist the work of the Commission, by organizing meetings of the Friends of the Chair Group and preparing relevant materials, including an inventory of existing practices. The FOC should report to the next Commission the preliminary results of its work to receive guidance for subsequent work.

Decision 15: Information items

The Commission took note of the following reports:

- Report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics
- Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics on education statistics
- Report of the International Labour Organization on labour and decent work statistics
- Report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers
- Report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics
- Report of the Ulaanbaatar Group on statistics for economies based on natural resources
- Report of the Secretary-General on development indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals
- Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on science, technology and innovation statistics
- Report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics
- Report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building
- Report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century on statistical capacity-

building

- Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics
- Report of the Friends of the Chair on integrated economic statistics
- Report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications
- Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities
- Progress report of the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) sponsors on SDMX
- Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission
-

Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Economic and Social Council

- Recalling recent resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council highlighting the fundamental importance of official statistics for the national and global development agenda;
- Bearing in mind the critical role of high quality official statistical information in analysis and informed policy decision-making in support of sustainable development, peace and security, as well as for mutual knowledge and trade among the States and peoples of an increasingly connected world, demanding openness and transparency;
- Bearing in mind that essential trust of the public in the integrity of official statistical systems and confidence in statistics depends to a large extent on respect for the fundamental values and principles that are the basis of any society that seeks to understand itself and respect the rights of its members; in this context, professional independence and accountability of statistical agencies are crucial;
- Stressing that, in order to be effective, fundamental values and principles that govern statistical work have to be guaranteed by the legal and institutional frameworks and be respected at all political levels and by all stakeholders in national statistical systems.

Endorses the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, as adopted by the Statistical Commission in 1994 and reaffirmed in 2013 and recommends them further to the General Assembly for endorsement. □

Exhibition on Statistical Development in Africa

Exposition sur le Développement Statistique en Afrique

Exhibition on Statistical Development in Africa

As a side event to the 44th sessions of the United Nations Statistical Commission, an exhibition was organized by the ECA in collaboration with member countries of the region and UNSD. The exhibition focused on progress made by African countries and regional institutions in the production and dissemination of statistical data. Statistical publications including books, posters brochures, CDs and multimedia presentations were displayed at the exhibition.

The exhibition was an opportunity for Africa countries to showcase the progress they have accomplished in terms of statistical development during the last five years.

Below are some pictures and some cover pages of documents presented at the exhibition.



Picture from exhibition -Photo de l'exposition

Exposition sur le Développement Statistique en Afrique

En marge de la 44ème session de la Commission de Statistique des Nations Unies, une exposition a été organisée par la Commission Economique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique (CEA), en collaboration avec les pays membres de la CEA et la Division Statistique des Nations Unies. L'événement a porté sur les progrès accomplis par les pays africains et les institutions régionales dans la production et la dissémination de l'information statistique.

Des publications statistiques sous forme de livres, CD-ROMs, posters, brochures et autres présentations multimédia ont été exposées.

Vous trouverez ci-dessous quelques photos de l'événement, ainsi que des couvertures de certains documents qui y ont été exposés.



Document presented at the exhibition
Document présenté à l'exposition



Documents presented at the exhibition
Documents présentés à l'exposition





Documents presented at the exhibition
Documents présentés à l'exposition

The meeting of the African Group at the 44th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

Joseph Ilboudo, ACS

The Bureau and members of StatCom-Africa met on the 24 February 2013 to prepare the interventions of African countries to the UNSC. The meeting was called by ECA and was attended by 39 participants comprising mainly Head of African NSOs, representatives of African regional institutions (AfDB, AFRISTAT, ECA, UNDP) and UNSD. The meeting was chaired by the chairperson of the Africa Symposium on Statistical Development. The common African position covered the following items and had to be presented by selected countries on behalf of the continent:

- Gender statistics (UNSD) Uganda
- National accounts (ISWGNA) South Africa
- ICP (World Bank) Tanzania
- Agriculture statistics (Global Steering Committee) Lesotho
- Regional statistical development (ECA) Niger
- Environment statistics (UNSD) Botswana
- Environment Accounting (UNCEE) South Africa
- Fundamental Principles (FOC/USA) South Africa
- Working methods Stat.Com (Bureau/UNSD) Senegal
- Trade Statistics (UNSD) Nigeria
- Demographic statistics (UNSD) Tunisia
- Employment statistics (ILO) Cameroon
- Natural resources based economies (Ulaanbaatar)

Angola

- Development Indicators (UNSD) Morocco
- Science and Technology (UNESCO) Rwanda
- Informal sector (Delhi) Cameroon
- Prices Statistics (ISWGP/Eurostat) Mozambique

African member States appreciated the preparation of the 44th session and thanked ECA, AfDB and Africa Union Commission to have prepared the initial comments that were reviewed during the meeting.

Side events

An exhibition was organized by the ECA in collaboration with member countries of the region and UNSD. The exhibition focused on progress made by African countries and regional institutions in the production and dissemination of statistical data. Statistical publications including books, posters brochures, CDs and multimedia presentations were displayed at the exhibition.

A seminar on Census and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) was organized by ECA. The speaker was the Statistician General of Statistics South Africa who made a presentation on the experience of South Africa on Census and CRVS including a dissemination of census data of South Africa, followed by a presentation of a representative of African Young Statisticians. More than 30 participants attended the seminar.

A meeting was organized by ECA on strengthening the capacity of African countries to use mobile technology to collect data for effective policy and decision making. The meeting was attended by members of the bureau of the StatCom-Africa, representatives of Jamaica, Cape Vert, Senegal, representatives of World Bank, AfDB, IMF, FAO and UNSD. A presentation was made by ECA on the DA project on the subject matter, followed by the experience of FAO and Jamaica on the use of mobile technology on data collection. Participants appreciated the relevance of the project and partners showed interest in contributing to its implementation.

ECA attended the 5th Global Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural Statistics. The following items were presented for endorsement: Allocation of funds from the Italian contribution (\$200,000); Global Office Annual Work Plan for 2013 and the Terms of References, areas of expertise of the Scientific Advisory Committee. One item for information was also presented: Knowledge sharing and coordination of research activities. The Italian delegation indicated their preference of funds allocation to African countries for the implementation of the Africa Action Plan of the Global Strategy. The meeting was informed on the progress made by ECA and FAO toward the signing of the MOU for the implementation of the training component of the Global Strategy. □

Etude du développement des systèmes nationaux de statistique: que peuvent apporter les modèles multi-agents?

Issoufou Seidou Sanda, CAS



Poster de la journée Africaine de la Statistique 2006

Le suivi du développement des systèmes nationaux de statistique, particulièrement dans les pays en développement est une tâche particulièrement ardue en raison notamment de l'absence de compréhension complète de la façon dont différents paramètres se combinent pour donner lieu à un système déterminé avec des niveaux de performance donnés dans différents domaines liés à la production et à la dissémination de l'information statistique. Des efforts notoires ont été entrepris pour capturer les facteurs essentiels qui contribuent au développement statistique. C'est le cas notamment de l'Indice Africain de Développement Statistique qui essaie de capturer les dimensions du développement statistique en cinq dimensions fondamentales : Organisation et Coordination du Système Statistique National; Infrastructure statistique; Diffusion des résultats; Développement du capital humain; Financement. Parmi les efforts pour mieux comprendre les dimensions génériques du processus de production statistique, on peut aussi noter le modèle intitulé « Generic Statistical Business Process Model » mis en place notamment grâce à la Division Statistique de la Commission Economique des Nations Unies pour l'Europe.

Il reste que le développement statistique est un processus de changement institutionnel qui met en œuvre une multiplicité d'agents poursuivant des objectifs pas toujours identiques dans un environnement donné. D'où l'intérêt de l'utilisation des modèles à agents multiples se basant sur les initiatives déjà mentionnées ci-dessus pour mieux comprendre ce processus, en capturer les dimensions essentielles et connaître sa sensibilité à différents paramètres de l'environnement institutionnel. Les modèles à agent multiples sont particulièrement bien adaptés pour capturer la complexité résultant des initiatives décentralisées d'agents multiples et des phénomènes émergents qui en résultent.

Les pistes par lesquelles les modèles à agent multiples peuvent contribuer à mieux comprendre le développement statistique sont nombreuses, mais on peut en citer au moins quatre :

- On peut modéliser le système national de statistique comme un système d'agents interconnectés qui a pour rôles de résoudre de façon coordonnée des problèmes ayant différents niveaux de complexité. La performance du système dépendra alors de différents paramètres comme le pouvoir de décision des agents, l'information à laquelle ils ont accès, leur niveau de compétences dans différents domaines, leur niveau de motivation, la charge de travail et la capacité du système à décomposer le problème en sous-problèmes et à les affecter aux agents ayant les compétences requises.

- Un autre problème qui serait intéressant à étudier à travers les modèles multi-agents est celui de la dissémination de l'information statistique. Cette dissémination dépend de la façon dont les agents producteurs et les agents consommateurs de données sont connectés, de leur niveau de connaissances et de leur niveau de motivation dans la dissémination et la recherche de l'information appropriée. Les flux de l'information statistiques deviennent alors un phénomène émergent déterminé par les caractéristiques des agents.

- Un autre phénomène émergent intéressant à étudier est celui de l'intérêt cyclique pour certains domaines particuliers de la statistique, suivant généralement les priorités des organismes internationaux et des partenaires au développement. Comment se combinent les agendas nationaux et internationaux pour produire un intérêt pour un domaine donné tandis que d'autres domaines sont délaissés et sous-financés? Des modèles à agents multiples pourraient aider à comprendre ce genre de phénomène.

- Finalement, la question de la gestion des connaissances est une question clé pour le renforcement des capacités dans le domaine statistique. Une meilleure compréhension des mécanismes par lesquels les connaissances se transmettent entre agents ou se perdent avec le mouvement des agents serait très utile. Dans le cadre d'un modèle à agent multiple, on peut considérer le niveau et la répartition des connaissances comme un phénomène émergent résultant des réseaux de contact entre agents, de l'incitation des agents à échanger leurs connaissances, des opportunités d'échanges offertes par l'environnement, et de la perte progressive des connaissances lorsqu'elles ne sont pas appliquées par exemple.

Ces différents exemples montrent que les modèles à agents multiples présentent un intérêt certain pour mieux comprendre le développement statistique et mieux cibler l'appui des organismes internationaux et des bailleurs de fonds pour la mise en place de systèmes statistiques nationaux pouvant mieux accompagner les pays dans leurs programmes visant à atteindre les objectifs de développement qu'ils se sont fixés. □

Celebration of the 2012 African Statistics Day in Madagascar

Andry Andriantseho, ACS



A picture of the celebrations of ASD 2012 in Madagascar

The African Statistics day was celebrated on 18 November 2012. This day was adopted in May 1990 by the Twenty-fifth Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Sixteenth Meeting of African Ministers responsible for Economic Planning and Development to be celebrated each year in order to “increase public awareness about the important role which statistics play in all aspects of social and economic life” of our countries and the continent. The 2012 African Statistics Day was celebrated on the theme: “Making every woman and man count: Engendering statistics for better development outcomes”. This theme was chosen to draw attention to the importance of gender responsive statistics to tackle gender inequalities and women’s empowerment issues in all sectors of socio-economic development processes. It was also an opportunity to get buy-in from policy makers on the urgent need to institutionalize the integration of gender in national statistical systems from the frameworks, methodologies, and approaches for data collection, to the analysis and use of gender statistics. Various advocacy materials were produced by ACS, translated in English, French, Portuguese and Arabic, and distributed either online or in hard copy to all African national statistical offices and ministries in charge of gender affaires. ACS provided technical and financial support to selected countries for the celebration of the event, in coordination with other organizations (UNDP, UNWOMEN, UNFPA, etc.). As a result of this strong advocacy, the 2012 ASD was widely celebrated in African countries. Even new countries such as South Sudan managed to organize national workshops and exhibitions with extensive media coverage. Several countries, among which Botswana, Ethiopia Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Senegal and Sierra Leone, organized the celebrations during one week, instead of one day only. Most countries organized events in major cities beyond the capital city. As a result of the strong advocacy, countries have committed to engender their statistical operations and surveys. The expected impact is a better integration of gender in national statistical systems at the levels of the frameworks, the methodologies, the approaches for data collection, as well as the analysis and the use of gender statistics.

Three events were organized for the celebration of ASD in Madagascar: the methodological work related to the adaptation of the ISIC-4 to the national context in Madagascar was finalized and presented to the user and producers from 14 to 15 November, in addition to the provincial celebration of ASD in the province of Majunga in North Coast on November 16th, and finally the national workshop on the next phase of the adoption of ISIC 4, in terms of implementing the classification in the business registers, the 2008 SNA and NSDS from 19 to 20 November 2012.

The national implementation project on SNA and its working group were already established, and supported by the government and the donor such as the World Bank and the trust fund of pool of partners already supporting the activities of the working groups, so as to ensure that Madagascar implement the 2008 SNA by 2015. A sub project on information technology in the business register was established during this workshop.

Moreover, thanks to availability of mid-level statisticians recruited as civil servants from national training school for civil servants, the INSTAT and line ministries receive 50 additional statisticians per year. However 50 additional staffs are required for the 22 provincial offices of statistics and the line ministries which are understaffed. It was also noted during the meeting the need to revise the statistical acts to encompass the national statistical systems, and the need to mainstream the sectoral statistics in the NSDS with the bottom-up approach.

Over hundred of local participants from different statistical units participated in these events and worked under plenary and parallel sessions.

The participants understood the scope and the various tasks to be undertaken to implement NSDS, the ISIC and the SNA and agreed that the INSTAT will finalize the projects documents for the governments, the World Bank and the pool of donors, including this specific activities:

- i. Revision of statistical acts, under the trust fund for NSDS
- ii. Design team to work on statistical master plan for over twenty sectoral statistics, then consolidate them into the NSDS with the bottom approach.
- iii. The IT work on the business registers and then on industrial statistics.
- iv. The finalization of MOU between the INSTAT and other user-producer of statistics.
- v. Design the project, under the principle of managing for developments results.

The national workshops provided were very efficient and helpful in building the statistical capabilities and initiate the process of implementing the SNA, the ISIC 4 through the working groups and their meetings. In addition, it was agreed that the NSDS had to be revised to mainstream the sectoral statistics and the status of implementation were identified. ECA will provide the necessary technical assistance in term of methodology and documentation for their projects, while the government, the World Bank and the pool of partner will continue to finance these statistical programmes. □

Validation meeting for the 2013 edition of the African Statistical Yearbook

Molla Hunegnaw, ACS



Participants to the validation meeting

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Union Commission (AUC) have joined hands for the fifth year to produce the 2013 edition of African Statistical Yearbook (ASYB).

This joint publication was one of the initiatives implemented by the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC) to build synergies among the three institutions to address the countless statistical challenges facing the continent. The joint effort of producing the ASYB has resulted in reducing response burden of African countries to the common data need by regional and international organizations and also improves harmonization of statistics produced by the three institutions.

The fifth issue of the joint ASYB also witnessed a single common mechanism in place for the collection of data. Over 40 countries have responded to the common questionnaire this year.

The overall objective of the validation workshop was to produce the fifth issue of the ASYB and specifically to (i) review the data submitted by countries, (ii) validate the data compiled on African countries for selected socio-economic indicators over the past one year (iii) complete data gaps from other sources and (iv) make the necessary verification and correction of data for the production of the Yearbook.

The meeting was attended by 57 participants from 37 countries, representatives of the three institutions and partners in Abidjan,

Cote d'Ivoire from 6-8 March 2013.

This validation meeting took place after a series of videoconferences and electronic information exchanges among partners and with the first draft of the country profiles ready for validation.

The three institutions made welcoming remarks and presented the objectives of the meeting. The meeting discussed the questionnaire which was used for data collection by countries and discussed how the mechanism can be improved in the future.

The meeting concluded on 8 March 2013 after setting up plans to complete the process and send to printing the fifth issue of the yearbook. It is expected that the process will be finalized by the end April 2013. During the meeting, it was agreed not only to continue this concerted effort of producing the joint yearbook but also to embark on developing a common statistical database from which the yearbook can be drawn. Besides, it was agreed to improve the existing data collection mechanism.

The yearbook will be disseminated in the form of limited copies of hardcopies, CD-ROMS and e-books. The main dissemination media of the yearbook will be the websites of the three institutions. Moreover, final data of ASYB 2013 will be migrated to the ECA statistical database. □

NEWS AND EVENTS - INFORMATIONS ET ÉVÉNEMENTS

Upcoming Events / Événements à venir

Date	Event / Événement	Organisers / Organisations	Venue
22-26 April 2013	Group of experts on informal sector satellite accounts	ECA	Yaounde, Cameroon
22-26 April 2013	Seminar on national satellite accounts on household production	ECA	Yaounde, Cameroon
29 April - 1st May 2013	Conference on Assessment of 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census in Africa	ECA	Pretoria, South Africa
6-10 May 2013	Workshop on statistical training	ECA	Rabat, Morocco
20-31 May 2013	Workshop on development of pool of experts for CRVS	AfDB, ECA, HMN, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO	Gaborone, Botswana
June 2013	Group of experts on national accounts	ECA	TDB
June 2013	Workshop on the implementation of the 2008 System of National Account (SNA) in Africa	ECA	TBD
June 2013	Group of experts on development indicators	ECA	TBD
June 2013	Meeting of African Group on Gender Statistics on the Compendium on gender statistics and toolkit/handbook	ECA	TBD
17-24 June 2013	Training of HR Managers on statistical Human capital strategy design and integration	ECA	Maputo, Mozambique
25-30 August 2013	59th ISI World Statistics Congress	ISI	Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China
2-9 September 2013	Workshop on the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for statistical capacity building and Africa (RRSF) and National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)	ECA	Antananarivo, Madagascar
23-30 September 2013	Training of HR Managers on conducting statistical training needs analysis and training management	ECA	Accra, Ghana
18 November 2013	African Statistics Day	African National Statistical Offices and Institutes	African countries
November 2013	African Symposium on Statistical Development	Instituto Nacional de Estatística e Censos	Bissau, Guinea Bissau
9-13 December 2013	Training of HR Managers in Francophone Africa on conducting statistical training needs analysis and training management	ECA	Niamey, Niger



NEWS AND EVENTS - INFORMATIONS ET ÉVÉNEMENTS

African Statistical Newsletter Editorial Policy

The Newsletter: The African Statistical newsletter aims to supplement the efforts of the African Statistical Journal to provide a platform for sharing knowledge and information about statistical methodologies and their application to solve practical problems in Africa. It covers all activities and news deemed to be of interest to the African statistical community, ranging from statistical advocacy to institutional development including capacity building and technical assistance, to specific statistical activities like censuses and surveys.

Target Clientele: The Newsletter is intended for the statistical community, across the whole of Africa as well as development practitioners with an interest in Africa's development.

Frequency: The African Statistical Newsletter is a quarterly periodical published four times a year. Issues are generally released within two weeks after the last day of the quarter. Material should be submitted to African Centre for Statistics email (statistics@uneca.org) by 15th day of the last month for publication in that quarter's newsletter.

Source of Articles and Photos: The articles and photographs published are written and submitted by experts practicing statistics in Africa and the rest of the world who are interested in statistical development in Africa. All articles must comply with the standards and technical publishing requirements. Generally, articles should not exceed 4 pages and should be of general interest to the statistical community. The editorial board carries out minor editing of the articles and reserves the right to determine the content of the newsletter.

Language: The Newsletter is bi-lingual –English and French. Articles are published in the language in which they are submitted. If an article is deemed to be of especial interest across the continent, we aim to publish it in both languages of the Newsletter.

Accessibility: The African Statistical Newsletter is posted on the Internet and is also published in hard copies for limited distribution. An electronic version in PDF format is also emailed to all contacts maintained by the African Centre for Statistics - to be added to this database send your contact details to statistics@uneca.org.

Subscription: The African Statistical Newsletter can be accessed free of charge.

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NEWS AND EVENTS - INFORMATIONS ET ÉVÉNEMENTS

Bulletin d'information statistique Africain

Politique éditoriale

Le Bulletin : Le Bulletin d'information statistique africain vise à compléter les efforts du Journal statistique africain en fournissant une plateforme pour partager les connaissances et les informations sur les méthodologies statistiques et leurs applications pratiques en Afrique. Il couvre toutes les activités et nouvelles d'intérêt pour la communauté statistique africaine, depuis le plaidoyer statistique pour le développement institutionnel en passant par le renforcement des capacités et l'assistance technique, jusqu'aux activités statistiques spécifiques comme les recensements et les enquêtes.

Clientèle ciblée : Le bulletin est orienté vers la communauté statistique à travers toute l'Afrique ainsi que vers les praticiens du développement marquant un intérêt pour le développement de l'Afrique.

Fréquence de parution : Le Bulletin statistique africain est un périodique trimestriel édité quatre fois par an. Les parutions s'effectuent en général dans un délai de deux semaines suivant la fin du trimestre. Les contributions doivent être soumises au Centre africain pour la statistique par email (statistics@uneca.org) le 15ème jour du dernier mois pour une publication dans le bulletin du trimestre.

Source des articles et des photos : Les articles et photographies publiés sont écrits et soumis par des experts pratiquant la statistique en Afrique et dans le reste du monde, intéressés par le développement statistique en Afrique. Tous les articles doivent être conformes aux normes et aux conditions techniques d'édition. Généralement, les articles ne doivent pas excéder 4 pages et représenter un intérêt pour la communauté statistique. Le comité de rédaction effectue des corrections mineures mais se réserve le droit de déterminer la teneur du bulletin.

Langue : Le bulletin est bilingue, anglais - français. Les articles sont publiés dans la langue dans laquelle ils sont soumis. Si un article est considéré comme étant d'un intérêt particulier pour le continent, nous cherchons à l'éditer dans les deux langues du bulletin.

Accessibilité : Le bulletin d'information statistique africain est posté sur Internet et édité en copie papier pour une distribution limitée. Une version électronique en format PDF est envoyée par e-mail à tous les contacts du Centre africain pour la statistique. Pour être ajouté à cette base de données, envoyez vos coordonnées à statistics@uneca.org.

Souscription : Le bulletin d'information statistique africain est gratuit.

Avertissement : Ce bulletin n'est pas un document officiel des Nations Unies ; il n'exprime pas la position officielle des Nations Unies.

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