



Distr.: GENERAL

06 September 2001

**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

English

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Second Meeting of the Committee
on Development Information (CODI)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
4-7 September 2001

AFRICAN INFORMATION TRADE FORUM

**Engr. George O. Okpataku
Nigeria**

Objective : To make available to other African countries, information about the various sectors of the economy, culture, agriculture, medicine, scientific or technological status, research findings, capabilities and capacities, etc. which a country has in the form of detailed data and pictorials.

- Aim :**
- 1) To create confidence within the African Countries. That is, they can harness God's Given resources within the African continent for African's welfare, technological growth and make global impact.
 - 2) To encourage inter-African trade and co-operation for capacity building using relevant information and data of various sectors of human endeavours. (E-Commerce).
 - 3) To have a data bank of ---
 - which country has what,
 - how it is produced,
 - where it is found,
 - what it is used for ,
 - how and why it is processed,
 - how it is preserved,
 - how it is packed for sale or delivery ,
 - what, who or where is the end user,
 - what quality, quantity and standard is applied in the production of the product.

Modalities : Data format in hard copies of various sectors are to be made available in electronic form to each African Nation, who will in turn produce hard copies . The country will then send same to states, provinces, local authorities and

towns/village levels. This geographical spread makes empirical comparison of same product in different locations, very easy in data evaluation and entry. These information collected at sites are packaged and arranged in their raw form and in various common code-heads, common products and common report process of the various sectors. The gathering of information and data should be hierarchical . (from village/towns---local authorities---state/province---national).

Each sector will be broken down in to smaller units of product or services with code-name and will have representatives from different African nations comparing data available on such a product or services, criticise each other, give advice to each other on how to improve on such product or service. (e.g. 200 sectoral representatives will come to the trade venue at a set date. Sector representatives will assemble to trade information for other users and the African Data Bank unit will be there to note and put the information on the web site for easy access.

This I believe will be an accessible data base in the proposed African Virtual Library and Information Network (AVLIN) or a web site, where Africans or so ever can access any information, product or research findings, from any point, for capacity building, non-duplication of efforts and E-Commerce.

If this web-site or data bank can be updated form time to time (e.g. monthly) after the first launch, by members of AVLIN, then Africans within and in-diaspora will have a reference point and automatically the information highway will expand to Africa.