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**COUNTRY REPORT**

**NIGERIA**



# **COUNTRY REPORT**

**PRESENTED AT**

**THE SECOND (CODI) MEETING  
HELD AT ADDIS-ABABA ETHIOPIA**

**BETWEEN**

**4<sup>TH</sup> AND 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2001**

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## **INTRODUCTION.**

1.0 The recommendations of the first meeting of the United Nations Committee on Development Information (CODI) offered Nigeria the opportunity to develop a plan of action for information gathering, dissemination and management. CODI was mandated to address the issues of Information and Communication Technologies; Statistical Development; and Geo-Information which are of common interest to African Countries Economic Development. CODI requested ECA member nations to bring to the attention of their policy makers the need to acquire, disseminate and effectively manage information for socio-economic planning and development. In order to give effect to the decisions of the first CODI meeting, the National Planning Commission set up an inter-ministerial committee to study and articulate various opinions on the issue of the three sub-committees approved.

The inter-ministerial meeting then created three sub-committees similar to that of CODI on:

- (i) Information and Communication Technologies,
- (ii) Statistical development, and
- (iii) Geo-Information.

2. The sub-Committees were mandated to review the existing developments in their respective sectors, i.e. the agencies involved, the dearth in modern equipment and there-after recommend the desired goals in each sector. Nigeria shares the vision of the African Information Initiative (AISI) endorsed by the ECA Conference of Ministers in Resolution 812 of 1996 which forms the framework for building African Information and Communication Infrastructure. Nigeria, therefore reviewed existing developments in their respective sectors and also looked into the possibilities of exchange of information with other African countries in each of the sectors. In recent times Nigeria has made investments in computer hardware and software, but they tend to be under utilised, considering the manpower status and access to connectivity in Broadcasting, Telecommunications and Internet

Infrastructure which have recorded modest growth in Nigeria. A lot still has to be done so that the required impact can be made on the National Economy. The same is true of Geo Information and Statistical Development.

3. Furthermore Nigeria is committed to the actualisation of the Declaration of the first African Development Forum (ADF) on the challenge to Africa in Globalisation and the Information -Age, held in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia in October 1999. To this end, Nigeria has adopted National Information Technology and Space Policies, whose objectives are to make Nigeria an Information Technology (IT) capable country in Africa and a key player in information society by the year 2005 . The strategies to be adopted include (i) Establishment of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) as well as an Information Development Fund as a funding security for IT project's counter part funding. (ii) The creation of knowledge - based and Simple Moral Account Responsive and Transparent (SMART) governance, (iii) Creation of government and private sector partnership in the development of IT sector, (iv) Provision of legislation that promote and guarantee freedom and rights to information, (v) Protection of individual privacy and secure justice for all by passing relevant bills and acts. (vi) Development of a National Information and Communication Infrastructure backbone in addition to an Internet gateway.

## **2.0 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES.**

2.1 Since the last CODI meeting Nigeria has brought together relevant agencies of government in this sector to highlight what has been achieved.

### **2.2 CONTENT DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING WEBSITE.**

Some academic institutions, Corporate organizations, Private and Public investors have Web Sites where relevant information can be accessed. There are so many others who are interested in building their own Web sites for E-Commerce, E-Banking, E-Mail, Internet access, but are limited by low quality and in-adequate telephone network in Nigeria. However these inhibitions are presently being addressed by Government through privatization and liberalization policy in Telecommunication services provision nation-wide

### **2.3 PRIVATIZATION AND LIBERALIZATION OF COMMUNICATION SERVICES.**

The Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) has licensed three private Telephone services companies to operate fixed and wireless telephone services. Some are rendering urban and rural telephone services while others are licensed to operate V-Sat private network to penetrate the hinterland for accessibility, price competition and network optimisation. It is in the light of this liberalised telecommunication policy that, three Global Services for Mobile telephone (GSM) providers were also granted license and they have commenced operations since August 2001.

### **2.4 GLOBALIZATION AND INFORMATION REVOLUTION.**

The NCC has liberalized ownership of cyber-cafes, the three international carriers have been given lee way to provide wide-band Internet Carriers. Various Internet Services Providers (ISP) are located in various parts of the country while access to these internet services are being addressed by fixed wire and wireless telephone companies. Though the number of telephone lines is still below the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) standard of one telephone to hundred persons, in the developing nations, effort is now seriously geared by the present government to address this in-adequacy in tele-density and information spread. The Nigerian Broadcasting Commission (NBC) has licensed several private and public Television, Radio and other media companies around the

country for effective dissemination of government plans, international and local news, advertising and documentaries.

## **2.5 HARMONIZATION AND COORDINATION OF ICT.**

The Government of Nigeria has recently revised the National Telecommunication policy to address standards and cooperation between all telecoms services providers, national Information Technology (IT) and Computer Association. They have come out with a policy document to set standards and harmonize practice and service delivery.

However, the initiatives to have a common point for all ICT providers (Telecoms, IT, Broadcast and computer association) to meet and address factors necessary to improve the standard and quality of life by use of these facilities have already been expressed.

## **2.6 ICT TRAINING IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.**

There are various tertiary institutions in Nigeria that are involved in the provision of manpower development and enhanced syllabus in the academic training needs for ICT institutions in Nigeria.

Nigerian Telecommunications limited (NITEL), Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), and Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) are parastatals under government control which have training schools equipped to practically impart communication skills, telecoms technology and general mass media (Electronic & Print) knowledge, using modern equipment and facilities. There are various institutions of learning (Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges) and privately owned computer training institutions which offer relevant courses in ICT and Internet technology.

## **2.7 The National ICT Policy on Information Technology.**

The National Information Technology (IT) Policy was approved in March, 2001 and the National Information Technology Development Agency established in April 2001 for the implementation of the IT Policy and serve as a co-ordinating centre for IT development in Nigeria. The IT Policy emphasizes the need for collaboration, alliance and co-operation between the public and the private sector, which has been recognised as the engine to stimulate growth in the information technology industry. In addition, the policy highlighted the use of information technology for education, job creation and global competitiveness.

Objectives and strategies were mapped out in the policy in the sectoral applications of information technology in areas such as:

- (i) Infrastructural Development,
- (ii) Human Resource Development,
- (iii) Governance,
- (iv) Research and Development,
- (v) Health,
- (vi) Agriculture,
- (vii) Urban and Rural Development,
- (viii) Trade and Commerce,
- (ix) Fiscal Measures,
- (x) Government and Private Sector Partnerships,
- (xi) Arts, Culture and Tourism, and
- (xii) National Security and Law Enforcement.

## **2.8 FISCAL MEASURES.**

Fiscal measures were also addressed in order to stimulate growth in the IT sector and attract investments both from within and from multi-national companies. Information technology parks are also to be established in Abuja and the six geo-political zones as multi-media corridors for both public and private sectors' effort at manufacturing IT equipment and provision of IT goods and services in Nigeria. The software development is to be encouraged to provide jobs for many Nigerians and to earn foreign exchange that will be comparable with the national foreign exchange earning from oil.

## **2.9 SOLUTION TO YEAR 2000 ENVISAGED PROBLEMS.**

There was a national campaign towards realisation of the transition calendar from 1999 to 2000 in all computer oriented devices and equipments, by the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology. This was well appreciated by users, marketers and operators of these devices and equipments, before the due date. In effect, there was no significant Y2K bug suffered by corporate bodies, as all equipments purchased or in-use were Y2K compliant before the year 2000 date.

### **3.0 STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT.**

**3.0** The National Statistical System refers to the aggregate of all agencies and organisations which engage in the collection, collation, analysis and production of statistical data in Nigeria. All the agencies and organisations constituting the National Statistical System are charged with statutory responsibilities and functions which collectively are expected to collect and collate economic and socio-demographic information. However, the main producers of statistics are the Federal Office of Statistics, National Population Commission, Central Bank of Nigeria, the State Statistical Agencies and other Line Ministries and Parastatals.

#### **3.1 Data Generation and Dissemination.**

The Federal Office of Statistics co-ordinates all statistical activities in Nigeria. In particular it is required to promote the use of standardised procedures, definitions and coverage. The main data collection activities carried out by FOS are in the area of surveys and census of business establishments to provide industrial statistics and also to be used as input into the preparation of National Accounts. These are price collection surveys for the consumer and producer price indices. Also there is a National Integrated Survey of Household (NISH) based on a stratified master sample designed to generate reasonable reliable state level estimates of important social and economic variables. A system of administrative statistics has also been developed to collect administrative data. The National Population Commission is responsible for population data. Also data on financial statistics are compiled and disseminated by Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). Other line Ministries provide statistics in the areas of their operation. For instance, the Federal Ministry of Health through the Primary Healthcare Information System provides information on health related issues. At the same time FOS undertakes joint activities with other data producing agencies.

Data is formally disseminated at present in the form of various statistical reports, digest and other printed documents. Some data are distributed to a few specialised users on request

in electronic form, usually as data files on diskette, but there is no formal policy on this type of release. Also the National Data Bank has set up a computerised database of economic and social data, much of which is derived from FOS publications. An Internet Website has been established and attempts are in place to provide on - line access to important users. In addition to this the FOS has started the process of digitisation of its data collection and processing.

### **3.2 Efficiency in the Administration and Financial Management of the National Statistical Services.**

Nigeria operates a decentralised statistical system with the different agencies or organisations concentrating on their areas of operation and each specialising in a subject matter. Therefore, under this arrangement, control and co-ordination are vested in such bodies whose functions are to support statistical activities in Nigeria in a number of ways. The Federal Office of Statistics works with other agencies to ensure the co-ordination of statistical system in the country. This is carried out under the auspices of:

- i) National Council on Statistics;
- ii) National Consultative Committee on Statistics;
- iii) The National Advisory Committee on Statistics; and
- iv) Federal Agencies Consultative Committee on Statistics.

All these structures are very important in the sense that they provide mechanism for reviving the needs of users and help to decide on priorities for the development of the Nigerian Statistical System. Also the structures have established a constituency of leaders and important people in all sectors of the society that can influence positively the production of statistics in Nigeria.

### **3.3 Computers and Related Softwares.**

In terms of equipment, especially computer hardware and related software, the situation in most statistical agencies is not good enough. In many agencies, the few available

computers are concentrated in data processing centres to the exclusion of statisticians in other units. It therefore means that the bulk of data processing work are executed in the data processing centre. Internet and e-mail facilities are not available in many statistical organisations, whereas they should be universally accessible to all the units in the statistical agency. It will also be possible for processed data to be transferred directly through computers to the data banks wherever they may be located.

### **3.4 Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).**

There is the problem of slow pace of the adoption of information and Communication Technology (ICT) in data management. Information tools such as telephones, personal computers and Internet are increasingly critical to statistical development. Nigeria is not experiencing the growth of ICT to the extent that is evident in developed countries. ICT has become useful in statistical operations since it covers wide spectrum of usages such as generation of information, storage and retrieval of information, dissemination of information and use of data production (Collection, processing, analysis and dissemination) The increasing awareness of ICT in statistical operation has raised general government awareness leading to more attention being paid to data bank development.

### **3.5 The use of Geographic Information System (GIS).**

The utilisation of the GIS in statistical operation in Nigeria is still at the lowest level. The National Population Commission whose statutory responsibility is to delineate the country into enumeration areas using the GIS, has not been able to accomplish the task. Nevertheless the Federal Survey Department is in the Geo-information business with the primary aim of recording all aspects of geographic information in Nigeria for different applications. The establishment of a National Geographic Information System is being contemplated upon with the aim of building a National database featuring all sectors of the economy.

### **3.6 Private Sector Involvement in Statistical Operation.**

Most Government's Statistical Organisations are poorly funded. Capital allocations of these agencies have been cut drastically in recent years. The result has been the very severe backlog in survey work and poor infrastructure to carry out statistical work. Some statistical agencies do not have separate budget for statistical operation and this has made it impossible for such agencies to achieve the production of minimum statistical requirements in any year.

Meanwhile, the private sector initiative in funding statistical activities has been very slow in Nigeria. Private sector operators see statistics as a public good which must be produced by government. However operators of the public sector statistical agencies are currently collaborating with private sector and Non-Governmental Organisations to fashion out policies and strategies on how to jointly fund data production for a wide range of statistical information. This will probably lead to the achievement of maximum utilisation of statistical information by encouraging the development of wide area network systems which allow wide dissemination to private sector, NGO and public sector.

### **3.7 External Technical Assistance.**

The World Bank is currently assisting the Federal Government of Nigeria to implement the Economic Management Capacity Project (EMCAP). The project focuses on improving economic and financial management in key institutions of economic planning including the Federal Office of Statistics.

The EMCAP's emphasis is on the provision of better data, improved processes to provide and disseminate such data and capacity building to ensure consistency and sustainability in data production in support of the government's policy of reducing poverty, reviving economic growth and better allocation of resources. The United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) has been identified to support the

economic statistics component of the project. The European Communities will also be supporting the Federal Office of Statistics within EMCAP, by strengthening the collection, processing and dissemination of social sector and poverty statistics.

#### **4.0 GEO-INFORMATION.**

**3.8** Geo-Information activities in Nigeria are carried out by various government and non governmental agencies dealing with the collection, processing and dissemination of spatially referenced information in the country. Though Federal Surveys is the apex mapping agency in the country, there are many other agencies that carry out specialised mapping. These include Geological Survey Departments of the Ministry of Solid Minerals Development and the Land Resources Department of Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. In addition to these there are institutions like Federal School of Surveying Oyo, and Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys(RECTAS) Ile-Ife that specialise in Manpower development in the areas of Geo-Information Technology. The National Remote Sensing Centre in Jos was established in 1995 under the aegis of the National Agency for Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) in the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology. Private sector is not left out in the development of Geo-Information Technology in Nigeria. For example, Oil Companies like Shell Petroleum, Agip, Texaco and Total are all involved in the purchase and processing of remote sensing imageries. and the development of GIS Technology in the country. The main problem in this sector is that there is no adequate inventory of what has been done in the area of Geo-information. The Government of Nigeria

intends to come out with an enabling legislation that will empower Federal Surveys to have the record of all jobs done in this sector whether by government or private sector organisations. This will make it possible for all stakeholders to know what is available in the country and in what form.

Major achievements of these agencies include among the others;

- (i) Establishment of a National Geographical Information System (NAGIS) with the aim of building a National database featuring all sectors of the economy. Similarly, Federal Surveys is in the process of converting the 1:50,000 Topographical maps from analogue to digital format in co-operation with some private companies in Nigeria. The digital topographical maps will be updated with satellite imageries to build a National Topographic Database. In addition, Geological maps in the Solid Minerals Sub-Sector are being produced by the Geological Survey of Nigeria .
- (ii) Establishment of Satellite Remote Sensing Ground Receiving station to be operated by National Centre for Remote Sensing in Nigeria to facilitate receiving signals from various satellite systems with the capacity to pre process, format and transmit data to other National sub-centres. Towards this end there was a signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Government of Nigeria through the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology and the British Government through the University of Surrey in November, 2000 on the design and launching of Nigeria Satellite on Remote Sensing and Communications which will

go a long way in enhancing the availability of real time data for the country and the West African sub- Region.

- (iii) Establishment of a primary Geodetic Network for Mapping in the country using Global Positioning System (GPS). Presently, about 700 control stations are located in different parts of the country. To further enhance its processing and archiving, the integration of the data with Geographic Information System is the major area being explored by the Federal Surveys.
- (iv) Participation of Nigeria in the Global Mapping Project through the Federal Surveys has started with the careful study of the specifications as the preparation of its own input in conjunction with consultants in the private sector.
- (v) Determination of the Geode by the Federal Surveys in collaboration with some researchers in University of Lagos (UNILAG) and the University of Nigeria (UNN), Nsukka.
- (vi) Modernization of the curriculum of Federal School of Surveying Oyo through the Federal Ministry of Works & Housing was embarked upon three years ago. Within this period to date training of or development of resources in Geo-information has been undertaken at different levels: Higher National Diploma (HND), Professional Diploma (PD), Post Graduate Diploma (PGD) and short term courses.

The running of the new programme require an assortment of digital equipments, computer hardware and appropriate software .At present the school is supporting the modernization programme with the following equipment:

- \* 1 set of Total Station,
- \* 1 set of GPS receivers,
- \* 1 set of Hand Held GPS receivers (Magellan),
- \* More than 40 number Pentium based computer system,
- \* Six number A3 Digitizing tablets,
- \* One number A0 Digitizer,
- \* Two number A3 Scanners,
- \* Assorted software for:
  - GIS Operation,
  - CAD,
  - Cartography presentation,
  - Word processing/spread sheet,
  - Transformation and Conversion,

Two number Digital levels and Coded staves;

The above equipment holding is not adequate. Therefore there is need for capital infusion to increase the stock of modern digital instrument as well as text books and journals on Geographic Information System (GIS). Another area the school need assistance is the training of trainers which will train others .In this regard there is a

collaboration programme being worked out by the school with International Institute for Aerospace Surveys (ITC) in the Netherlands, GDTA and European Union. Also, as a future plan the school intends to extend its Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) programme to the level of Master of Science in Geo-informatics giving opportunity for specialization in any of the four areas:

- Digital Cartography and Visualization,
- Optimization and Techniques in Geo-spatial data handling,
- Digital Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing,
- Geo-spatial Information Management.

The above require further technical strengthening in the realm of :

- (a) Web site and higher Internet connection,
- (b) Hardware acquisition,
- (c) Local Area Network Systems in institutions,
- (d) Retraining of members of the academic personnel,
- (e) Project vehicle (4-wheel Drive).