



Economic Commission for Africa

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The background image is a composite. On the right, a woman in a blue floral dress and a black headwrap is holding a large professional camera with a long lens, looking through the viewfinder. On the left, another woman in a patterned dress is using a green watering can to water plants in a field. The background shows a dry, hilly landscape under a blue sky with some clouds.

# Information as an Economic Resource

Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Committee  
on Development Information (CODI IV)

April 23-28, 2005  
Economic Commission for Africa  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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## Introduction

The Fourth Meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI) on the theme “Information as an Economic Resource” was held in the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) at the Headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa, from 25 to 28 April 2005, with pre-meeting events from 23 to 24 April 2005. The format of the meeting comprised plenary sessions and three subcommittee sessions on Information and Communication Technologies, Statistics and Geoinformation respectively.

International and local companies, organizations and government offices specializing in a variety of services including mapping and GIS activities mounted technical exhibitions during the meeting. ECA also exhibited information services and products from various divisions, programmes and initiatives. The CODI IV meeting also featured a large travelling exhibit sponsored by the Government of Finland. The exhibits provided participants and exhibitors with an excellent opportunity to network and exchange ideas regarding the use of information as an economic resource.

CODI, one of ECA’s seven subsidiary bodies, was established in 1997 at the 23rd meeting of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning. CODI provides policy and technical guidance for ECA’s subprogramme “Harnessing information for Development”. The Development Information Services Division (DISD) is the substantive division responsible for implementing this subprogramme, which covers information and communication technologies (ICTs); statistical development; database development and management; geoinformation and library; documentation and information service.

# Abbreviations and Acronyms

## List of Acronyms

ABSA	Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa
ACGD	African Centre for Gender and Development
ACSIS	African Civil Society Network in the Information Society
ACTION	Analysis, Consultation, Targets/Pillars, Integration, Organisation and National Commitment
ADB	African Development Bank
ADF	African Development Forum
AFREF	African Geodetic Reference Frame
AFRISTAT	L'Observatoire Economique et Statistique d'Afrique Subsaharienne
AISI	African Information Society Initiative
AOCRS	African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing
ARIA	Assessment of Regional Integration in Africa
ARN	Academia Research Network
ATAC	African Technical Advisory Committee
AU	African Union
AVLIN	African Virtual Library and Information Network
BPO	Business Process Outsourcing
CePRC	Canadian ePolicy Resource Centre
CMPHS	Continuous Multipurpose Household Survey
CODI	Committee on Development Information
CODI-KLIS	CODI Subcommittee on Knowledge, Libraries and Information Services
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DINAGECA	National Directorate for Geography and Cadastre (Mozambique)
DISD	Development Information Services Division
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EAC	East African Community
EASTC	Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDF	Enterprise Development Facility for Women Entrepreneurs
ENSEA	Ecole Nationale de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée
ePol-NET	Global ePolicy Resource Network
ESPD	Economic and Social Policy Division
EU	European Union

EWG	Executive Working Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FarmNET	Farmers Information Network
FASDEV	Forum on African Statistical Development
FOSS	Free and Open Source Software
FOSSFA	Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa
GDDS	General Data Dissemination System
GI	Geoinformation
GIS	Geographic Information System
GSDI	Global Spatial Data Infrastructure
GSDI	Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association
IATA	International Association of Travel Agents
ICA	International Cartographic Association
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDRC	International Development Research Centre (Canada)
IMARK	Information Management Resource Kit
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INE	Institute of National Statistics (Mozambique)
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
ISPRS	International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
ITC	International Institute for Geoinformation Science and Earth Observation
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MAFA	Mapping Africa for Africa
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NASRDA	National Space Research and Development Agency
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NICI	National Information and Communication Infrastructure
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation
NSDI	National Spatial Data Infrastructure
NSO	National Statistical Office
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIC	Officer-In-Charge
OIF	Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
OSS	Open Source Software
PECI	Pan African E-Commerce Initiative
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RCMRD	Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development
RECTAS	Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys

SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SALB	Second Administrative Level Boundaries
SDDS	Statistical Data Dissemination System
SDI	Spatial Data Infrastructures
SEAMIC	Southern and Eastern African Mineral Centre
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SNA	System of National Accounts
TCP/IP	Transfer Control Protocol/ Internet Protocol
TRID	Trade and Regional Integration Division
UEMOA	Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine
UNCC	United Nations Conference Centre
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA/CST	United Nations Population Fund/ Country Support Team
VERCON	Virtual Extension Research and Communication Network
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
WAN	Wide Area Network
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society





## A. Plenary Sessions

### Attendance

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1. The meeting was attended by delegates from the following member States of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.
2. The meeting was also attended by numerous international, national, regional and subregional observer organizations and institutions. See Annex 3 for the full list of participants.
3. Technical exhibitions were mounted during the meeting.
4. The format of the meeting comprised plenary sessions and three subcommittee sessions on Information and Communication Technologies, Statistics and Geoinformation.

### Opening (agenda item 1)

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5. The outgoing CODI President, from Uganda, welcomed participants to the opening ceremony of CODI IV. There was a change to the announced CODI agenda, whereby the opening remarks by the acting Deputy Executive Secretary, ECA, would come after the Goals and Objectives of CODI by Ms Aida Opoku-Mensah, the Officer-in-Charge, DISD.

In her presentation, the “Goals and Objectives of CODI IV”, Ms. Opoku-Mensah outlined the two main objectives of CODI IV, which were: 1) to investigate, deliberate and document the advantages and returns of the emerging information and knowledge economy as an economic resource; and, 2) review the progress made in implementing CODI III recommendations.

Outlining the structure of the CODI IV programme of work, she highlighted the pre-conference meetings that took place and spoke on the themes for the main CODI meeting for all the subcommittees. Ms Opoku-Mensah also said the expected outcomes of CODI IV were to among other things examine and investigate the opportunities offered by the information economy, particularly in relation to the African continent; and, set the path for the development of the ECA two-year programme on “Harnessing Development for Information”.

Ms. Opoku-Mensah said that information had gained currency in the past decade in many sectors, spurred by deregulation and innovation. This had stimulated economic competition, which served as a catalyst for the information revolution that was creating specialized information services

in numerous socio-economic sectors with an enormous impact on the overall global economy. Information, she stressed, was an opportunity enhancer and a major driving force behind global interaction which was propelling a growing interconnectedness between, inter alia, the information sectors, including libraries, geoinformation, and information and the global economy. Assessing the impact and measuring the level of penetration of ICTs in African economies was now an integral part of DISD's work through the SCAN ICT initiative, aimed at developing indicators for measuring the impact of the Information Society on socio-economic sectors.

6. In her welcoming remarks, Ms. Josephine Ouedraogo, Acting Deputy Executive Secretary, ECA, illustrated the progressive movement during the last two decades from an industrial to an information society. She pointed out that the industrial sector was one such sector to benefit from the use of electronic information in manufacturing as well as in other areas.

However, she observed, the information revolution still did not benefit the majority in Africa. African governments should therefore ensure that access to information contributed to the fight against poverty and exclusion and that information access did not further economically marginalize poorer populations. She stressed that statistical data, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and ICTs had not only helped to ease the collection, analysis and dissemination of information, but could be instrumental in assisting member States achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), address Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS) and supporting the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). She also emphasized the need for public-private partnerships, with more consideration of women's needs and recalled that ECA and UNDP established the first Enterprise Development Facility for Women Entrepreneurs (EDF) in 1998 to reinforce the ability of African women entrepreneurs to act within the information economy.

## Election of officers and organization of work (agenda item 2)

7. The outgoing CODI Chair, Uganda thanked the outgoing officers elected at CODI III. The CODI III bureau had comprised:

Chair: Uganda  
 First Vice-Chair: Niger  
 Second Vice-Chair: Gabon  
 First Rapporteur: Namibia  
 Second Rapporteur: Egypt

He informed the meeting that the heads of delegations had met earlier and elected the bureau for CODI IV. The meeting approved the elected bureau and adopted the agenda and organization of work proposed by the Secretariat. There were no amendments and the agenda of CODI IV was adopted without comments or reservations (doc. E/ECA/CODI/4/1). The agenda is presented

in Annex 2. The new bureau comprises:

Chair: Tunisia  
First Vice-Chair: South Africa  
Second Vice-Chair: Rwanda  
First Rapporteur: Ghana  
Second Rapporteur: Cameroon

8. The new Chairperson, Tunisia, said that Tunisia was honoured to host the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS II) in November 2005, recalling that already at the first WSIS, held in Geneva, the Tunisian President had underscored the need to eliminate the digital divide in Africa. He urged all the subcommittees to think about using WSIS II to help to increase Africa's participation in global Information Society events.

### **Key introductory panel: "Information as an Economic Resource" (agenda item 3)**

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9. Under this agenda item, the Keynote Speech was delivered on the CODI IV theme, "Information as an Economic Resource". The panel responses to the keynote speech were made representing each Subcommittee and highlighting the implications for each area. Mr. Moubarak Lo, Director of the Association of the Banks of Senegal, delivered the Keynote Speech. He said new information characteristics and changes after the Second World War included: the emergence of mass media, including telecommunications and a convergence of information and communication technologies; information tools that were easier to work with; and, information that could be reused, transformed and value-added at each step.

He traced the information chain, starting with data, information, knowledge and understanding. Knowledge was an economic resource that African countries could learn to use to better advantage. Mr. Lo examined three factors of the economy, macro- and micro-information impact, and Africa's contribution to the Information Society. Discussing macroeconomics through graphical demonstrations, he emphasized that the use of ICTs had increased productivity in the Organization for Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, urging African governments to support the knowledge sectors of the economy.

In the micro-economic arena, he explained, companies gained a competitive advantage using ICTs. Competitive advantage was seen by some as less important than innovation, but the primary function remains that with making a profit by identifying a comparative advantage. Consequently, information enterprises can benefit from ICTs by changing the nature of their products to reflect the needs of the consumers today.

10. Mr Dayo Ogunyemi, member of ECA's African Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) Attorney and Consultant, Counsel Advisory Group/EMC Matrix in his Keynote Response, agreed that globally, knowledge industries were driving much of recent economic growth and that Africa remained poor at least partly because it had not so far been able to leverage enough information and knowledge for its development. He said that the question was not whether information provided a valid basis for restructuring and reinvigorating African economies, but was rather how this could be done and at what price. Overall, he emphasized the need for African governments to give importance and invest in "people, not just machines". He presenter recognized the role of the private sector in driving technological innovation and the growth of the knowledge economy, and challenged participants to ensure a strong voice for private sector and civil society in policymaking, complementing public sector centres of excellence with policies that encourage a domestic private sector, and championing the use of public-private sector partnerships in delivering products and services.

11. In the Library keynote response, Professor Kingo Mchombu, University of Namibia referred to Africa's ability to transform itself into an Information Society. He pointed out that since around 70 per cent of the population was still agrarian, there was need to look at different paths to use knowledge to transform society. Consequently libraries could help Africa create information and knowledge products. However, far more investment was needed in libraries and library systems, as Africa was investing only around 1% in this area, compared to 2-5% in Asia. Professor Mchombu also asked who owned the knowledge economy. For example, intellectual property looked at the privatization of knowledge rather than seeing knowledge as a public good. Unless Africa addressed such issues early, it could easily find itself in a situation of knowledge dependency, similar to economic dependency. He urged reconnection with a past time when Africa was a major producer of knowledge, producing the Egyptian pyramids and a centre of learning in Timbuktu, to help motivate the continent out of the knowledge dependency trap.

12. The Geoinformation Keynote Response of Professor Peter Adeniyi, Vice Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria, was delivered by Dr. Ademola Omojola, University of Lagos, Nigeria. Professor Adeniyi underscored the importance of GI in Africa based on the fact that 80% of all human decisions were anchored to space and wondered whether investments in ICT should not also reflect this ratio. He further identified the need for Mapping Infrastructure (including operational utility infrastructure for ICT and Geodetic reference framework, base maps and satellite receiving stations for GI and Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), as well as policies, resources and structures to make GI available to decision makers and the community. He concluded that Africa needs to invest more in ICTs to compete in the information economy, investment should be directed more towards GI and that efforts should be increased in establishing GI infrastructure and to get maximum benefits from available investment.

13. In his response providing the statistics perspective, Mr Buleti Nsemukila, Director of Statistical

Survey, Zambia, quoted the views of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), that there was a close link between the digital divide and the statistical divide, with the statistical divide being as great or greater than the digital divide. He further contended that at the data entry stage, using new technologies could cut down on the time required to collect and disseminate information before it became outdated. In addition, the use of VSATs and WANs reduced time in releasing trade statistics, and made reporting and dissemination of information much easier. For example, whereas it used to take five years to release statistics in Zambia, data was now available in six months, with the final report out in two years, cutting three years off the process. Challenges that remained, in his view, included the limited availability of ICTs and networks, the brain drain from the statistics sector, and, outdated statistical legislation.

## **Information in the Economic Sectors (agenda item 4)**

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14. Mr Sheku Bangura from the West African Monetary Institute (WAMI) gave the presentation titled “Statistical Information in the Banking Sector,” which focused on the importance of statistics in the banking sector and in monitoring monetary and financial activities. It underlined some approaches to addressing the limitations and challenges of statistical information pertinent to this sector. Some of the limitations mentioned were accessibility and timeliness of data, which should be remedied through the development of a sound and broad statistical base. The production of guidelines, manuals and frameworks for data dissemination were acknowledged to be particularly necessary. The presenter outlined the range of statistics required for banking and financial activities, stressing that good quality statistical data for policy proposals was needed and should be made available in a timely fashion.

15. The next presentation titled “Geoinformation and Natural Resource Management” by Francis A. Adesina, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria focused on three areas: a review of natural resources utilization with reference to the African continent; international efforts towards achieving sustainable development vis á vis NEPAD; and geoinformation’s crucial role and economic benefits for addressing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The presenter underscored the haphazard nature of natural resource exploitation on the continent. A significant factor was the absence of adequate geospatial information on the distribution, stock, quality and potential environmental and social impact of exploiting said resources. The presentation also called for concerted national and regional efforts to expand awareness of GIS and their value and potential for establishing national policies.

16. The presentation on ICT in Government and International Trade by Matthew Wake, International Trade Centre noted the unprecedented growth in global e-commerce volumes, causing improved benefits for users, such as speed and accuracy of order processing and supply chain management. Emerging trends with significant impact for Africa were cited as Business

Process Outsourcing (BPO) and the uptake of m-commerce. South Africa already held a share in the BPO world market, but other countries were emerging as actors also. In Ghana 1,500 persons were currently employed in data processing for an American insurance company. There were also call centres in Kenya, Senegal and Morocco, albeit with limited success.

17. Participants addressed the following key issues:

- The need for Africa to move from concepts, ideas and frameworks to action and implementation with an understand of knowledge industries and the role they can play on the continent;
- The private sector's role was considered important in strengthening the information economy, including the participation of financial institution as this sector helps to integrate and implement concepts;
- The importance of geoinformation being used to address issues such as natural resource management at the grass roots level was a critical issue that countries need to address; and
- Problems relating to patent registration and license acquisition were cited as inhibitors to ICT development and uptake.

## Information for Economic Management and Entrepreneurship (agenda item 5)

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18. Ray Wilkinson of Map Integration Technologies, South Africa, made the first presentation, on "Location-based services: A South African case study that can be applied to other parts of Africa". Location-Based Services or LBS can be defined as, "services that exploit knowledge about where an information device user is located, using South Africa as the case study. The presentation also stressed the need for cooperation and collaboration between governments, donors, private/local enterprises to replicate the South African model where with the correct spatial development such collaborations provide an accurate development of an intelligent spatial platform to enable Location Based Services that will enhance economic enterprise, reduce costs for the public at large and save time.

19. Pierre Ouedraogo, of the Institut Francophone des Nouvelles Technologies de l'Information et la Formation (INTIF), France made the second presentation on Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) and the information industry. He stressed that the FOSS concept was based on the essential principle that there are no restrictions in using, distributing, analyzing or modifying the software. FOSS was not necessarily free of charge but anyone had the freedom to use it for any purpose and anyone could participate in the worldwide community to develop and maintain the software. In the case of Africa, there was already enough ICT competence and technical know-

how available in the region to support a transition to an open source software environment. As a result, there was a commercial market for FOSS services in Africa.

20. Mr. Abraham Azubuike, of the ECA Library, made the third presentation on National Knowledge Systems and the Status of Information Access Policies in Africa. He started with a definition of what constituted a national knowledge system, which was considered assets with economic value. The presenter listed a number of national knowledge institutions including libraries and information centres as the main repositories of information resources hence the core source of fundamental stock of knowledge. An effective system of national library and information services for economic, scientific and technological development is therefore one of most important element of a national knowledge system where the core depositaries of knowledge were libraries and information services. These institutions were important in expanding the knowledge base of a society and enable participation in the global knowledge-based economy.

21. Ms. Frances Harper, of Paris 21, OECD, presented a video film entitled “Measuring the Change in World Poverty”. Ms. Harper gave a brief explanation of the objectives of the Paris 21 initiative emphasizing that with the proper treatment and analysis, statistics could be used to target and assess policy measures, and thus enhance their effectiveness. The film amply demonstrated the importance of statistical information for policymakers, but at the onset had to be appropriately designed, collected, compiled, and presented in a way that effectively transmits the information and encourages its use.

22. Participants responded to these presentations with a variety of relevant comments and suggestions:

- The issue of security and sovereignty with regard to software was raised. Private source software users and governments depend wholly on the provider of the software for security reasons and for eradication of viruses/bugs;
- Countries were advised to develop ICT strategies in which a strategy on open source software should be integrated. The chairperson cited the case of Tunisia, and asked whether African countries should drive for a national strategy on open source software;
- Issues of concern included the legal aspects of the use of open source software in relation to international agreements and World Trade Organization rules;
- Queries were raised about the factors for the establishment of a knowledge-based society and economy in Africa;
- An issue was raised regarding ways in which parliaments could help in the process of transition towards a knowledge-based economy in Africa;
- In addition, there was consensus that security and sovereignty issues were important and needed focused attention from the subcommittees.; and



- Attention should be paid to knowledge and information, as it would be determinant for future economic development.

## The Information Industry (agenda item 6)

23. The first paper in this session on “Statistical information and economic and monetary integration: lessons and a case study” by Richard Michel, Statistician Economist and Consultant stated that economic and monetary integration was a necessity for African countries since relevant economic agents were becoming larger, and external shocks could compromise years of good governance efforts, whereas loan and external debt renegotiation capacities were weak. However information was considered a new economic wealth and a motivating component for development and innovation, of which harmonized statistical information occupied a privileged position. He confirmed that adapted information was essential for a successful economic and monetary integration process as well as confidence between partners. The role ICTs played in advancing statistics was highlighted, accelerating technical exchange and bringing transparency between national statistics producers.

24. Craig Schwabe of the Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa, in his presentation on “The Geoinformation Industry in Africa: prospects and potential” presented three African case studies: Botswana, Malawi and Mozambique. Botswana had developed a national atlas which provided one of the most comprehensive geoinformation data sets for a country in hardcopy and CD formats, whereas Malawi, was creating a “one-stop shop” to increase efficiency, and Mozambique, where the Institute of National Statistics (INE) and the National Directorate for Geography and Cadastre (DINAGECA) were working together to provide census data for the country. The Global Mapping Project had shown that African countries could work with global partners, develop standardized data sets, contribute to principles of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI); and make geoinformation internationally available through web portals. For the future, the geoinformation industry must follow a “needs driven” or policy framework approach and implement Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) as an international best practice.

25. The paper on “Competition and Transformation of the Telecommunications Industry in Africa: The Case of Kenya - Lessons Learned in Governance and Privatization” by Ernest Mwangi of the Kenya Leadership Institute, described how the best practice for regulatory bodies should be independent and autonomous from political structures and act to protect industry actors exploiting consumers. This required that such bodies should be autonomous financially with the established rules of practice and procedure that would lend it credibility. He then went on to describe the structure of the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK) outlining that the government appointed senior officials of the organization. This meant that license applications were being received but could not be issued, disputes as a result could not be determined, and a



delay in implementing competition policy to stimulate investment in the communication sector. This state of affairs had created regulatory failure in the (tele) communication sector.

26. Participants made the following observations:

- The regulatory climates left a lot to be desired in the information sector in Africa which compromised the economic prospects of the sector. One suggestion was that the regulatory councils should include civil society, to speak for the public.
- The African Union or the ECA should help sub-regional organizations to develop their statistical work, as Eurostat had helped the EU to integrate. It was noted that the Abuja Treaty (1991) called for an African Central Bank, and data and information would play a vital role in its establishment. Currently, the system of electronic payments between African countries acted more as a barrier to trade.

## **B. Subcommittee Sessions**

### **Subcommittee on Information and Communication Technologies and Library (agenda item 7)**

#### **Attendance**

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27. The meeting of the Subcommittee on Information and Communication Technologies and Library was attended by delegates and observers from the following member states: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Gambia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia and Zambia. The following regional and International organizations and other institutions participated in the meeting: FAO, Embassy of Japan, FOSSFA, ACSIS, SADC.

#### **Opening (agenda item 7.1)**

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28. The current Chairperson (Rwanda) called the meeting to order and the OIC of DISD made opening remarks that set the scope of the meeting.

29. The incumbent CODI III ICT Subcommittee bureau opened the meeting. This Bureau

comprised: Rwanda as Chair, Zambia as Vice-Chair and Mauritania as Rapporteur. Clement Dzidonu, Rwanda Consul in Ghana, representing Rwanda gave a brief overview of CODI III: the bureau, the theme and the dates. He gave his thanks to the members of the outgoing bureau, and special thanks to ECA, which served as the CODI III Secretariat.

## **Election of officers and adoption of programme of work (agenda item 7.2)**

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30. The outgoing Chairperson conducted the election of officers for the new Bureau members:

Chair - Nigeria,  
Vice Chair - Egypt  
Rapporteur - Tanzania

31. Aida Opoku-Mensah, ECA Officer in Charge of the Development Information Services Division welcomed the participants and hoped that the work of the Sub-committee would be highly productive. She expressed her wishes that another look be taken at the work that has so far been done on the Africa Regional Action Plan for the WSIS. The Library group, through the OIC, requested that they be allowed to have a separate working group. The Sub-committee approved this request.

32. On the call to order, the Agenda was adopted.

## **Information as an Economic Resource: ICT in Economic Growth (agenda item 7.3)**

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33. Mr Dayo Ogunyemi, member of ECA's African Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC), Attorney and Consultant, Counsel Advisory Group/EMC Matrix made a presentation on "Information and Economic Growth: Legal Framework." He discussed how the different ways in which information is viewed affected the framing of legal issues and discussed the legal perspectives on each one of the issues. He further discussed issues that needed a legal framework when viewing information as an economic resource - conduit issues related to the facilitation of exchange of information, content issues addressing the protection of content, and non-content information such as data privacy and integrity. According to Mr. Ogunyemi IPR issues addressed information "created" as knowledge goods, but didn't really reach issues raised by factual information that may nonetheless have strong value. He concluded by discussing the Global IP framework, the IPR rules, development of appropriate IPR rules, trade in information as a commodity, information and the individual, and public sector use of data and information.

## Report of Activities (agenda item 7.4)

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34. This session reviewed major activities undertaken since the CODI III meeting.

### Report on recommendations from CODI III (agenda 7.4.1)

35. Mr. Mohammed Timoulali from ECA made a presentation on the report of CODI III recommendations. He started his presentation by emphasizing on the very low response rate from members States for the questionnaire sent out from ECA to assess the implementation of the recommendations. The response rate was only 13%, with responses received only from Benin, Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria. Mr. Mohamed reported on the results obtained and the activities undertaken with regard to the following CODI III recommendations: accelerating the process of the formulation; development and implementation of NICI plans; promotion of participatory approaches; putting in place a mechanism to measure the progress in ICT; improved content creation and assistance towards enabling African languages; enhanced partnerships and collaboration; enhanced role of libraries; promotion of free and open source software; facilitating the public-private partnership (PPP), and, rationalization of initiatives.

### Report of the African Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) (agenda item 7.4.2)

36. As the chairperson of the fourth African Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC IV), Dr. Sebiletsa Mokone-Matabane made a presentation on the report of the ATAC activities. She started off by highlighting on the Terms of Reference of ATAC and the roles of ATAC members, which includes advising ECA on the implementation of the AISI, participating in advocacy and research activities and consultations at regional and international forums to promote the AISI and its programmes. On the way forward, Dr. Sebiletsa stressed that ATAC members will focus on implementation of the action plans prepared by the subcommittees, and continue their active participation in the WSIS process, specially WSIS Tunis 2005.

### Report of the E-economy Workshop (agenda item 7.4.3)

37. The presenter briefed the meeting on the outcomes of the CODI pre-conference event, “ePol-NET Africa Workshop: Towards an E-economy in Africa” organized in collaboration with Industry Canada and the Canadian ePolicy Resource Centre (CePRC). The deliberations of the workshop centred on four major sub-themes. These were enabling environment, e-economics, stakeholders and the role of statistics as a policy instrument. Furthermore, gender mainstreaming, the role of the youth, civil society and government in e-economics were also highlighted.

#### Report of the OSS Workshop (agenda item 7.4.4)

38. The meeting heard the report of the outcomes of the pre-CODI workshop, “Using Open Source Software for Information for Development”, organized in collaboration with Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) to examine the role of FOSS in promoting information for socio-economic development. According to the report issues of security of open source software in environments where information is a key resource, and the need for capacity building of African open source software experts to develop the information economy were discussed. The use of open source software in public administration, by businesses and the inclusion of local language interface in open source software were other topics that were discussed.

#### WSIS Accra commitments and the way forward (agenda item 7.4.5)

39. Ridha Guelloz, the CODI IV chair-elect from Tunisia made the last presentation of the session highlighted the achievements of the Second WSIS Regional Preparatory Conference organized in February 2005 in Accra, Ghana, and the key issues arising from the conference discussions. It focused on the Regional Plan of Action, known as the Accra Commitments, which should be adopted during the Second WSIS in November 2005. Mr. Guellouz pointed out that the Accra Commitments addressed both political and operational considerations of the WSIS process. He stressed the need for establishing appropriate national, regional and international mechanisms to implement the WSIS and Africa Action Plans and concrete long-term regional programmes in addition to the Digital Solidarity Fund.

40. Comments and recommendations included:

- There was need to include policies on Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) for creating an enabling and sustainable development in Africa. Consequently, CODI should therefore support and endorse the Idlelo2 Report (IDLELO CHARTER) as a political document to stimulate FOSS adoption in Africa, in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- CODI should look at computer operating systems as part of basic infrastructure such as roads, water-ways, air-routes, water-ways or TCPIP for the internet. Such systems should thus conform to open standards and be interoperable for seamless adoption in Government ICT infrastructure; and
- The role of civil society in the WSIS process was stressed and participants were informed of the African Civil Society for the Information Society group (ACSIS), which had planned five sub-regional workshops where member States were urged to host the these events before WSIS in Tunis.

41. Other issues raised were:

- Reasons behind the low response rate of the questionnaire on CODI III recommendations, which may have been due to lack of awareness about the process, There may be a need to define ICT measurements specific to countries or regions;
- The need to develop cyber laws considering the increasingly challenging aspects of cyber crimes so as to build confidence of the governments and the public at large in e-commerce activities. This may require training and capacity development programmes for police or special investigation force, as well as experts on issues related to cyber crimes and put in place appropriate cyber laws that protect and address such issues; and
- There was a need for the development of Africa's capacity in developing value-added knowledge products and the involvement of the private sector; and
- Multi-stakeholder partnership is the solution for the development of the information economy.

42. The session was closed at 13:00 hrs.

## **ICT in Socio-Economic Development (agenda item 7.5)**

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### **Emerging features of the African Information Economy (agenda item 7.5.1)**

43. The first presentation of the session by Assefa Bahta, DISD/ECA on "The African Information Economy: ICTS in the budgets of African countries" showed a comparative analysis of several African countries and how they budgeted for ICTs. Evidently many countries are having difficulties allocating budgetary lines to ICTs. A few countries like Ghana, South Africa and Egypt have started but it was observed that some countries do have ICT budget lines in sectors.

### **E-services in Africa: the banking and financial service sectors (agenda item 7.5.2)**

44. The other presentation was made by Oumar Seck of Enterprise Africa on 'E-Services in Africa: Banking and Financial Sector', who outlined the ICT and financial industry as well as new services in the finance and banking sectors. The backbone of the E-economy was acknowledged to be electronic banking and financial services, which ensured smooth financial transactions for exchange of goods and services across boundaries and national borders. This presentation reviewed some of the successful e-service initiatives in Africa and highlighted opportunities and challenges.

### **Trade Facilitation: the case of automation of Ethiopian Customs (agenda item 7.5.3)**

45. Mekonnen Gebeyehu, from Ethiopian Customs Authority presented a paper on "Customs automation and trade facilitation: the case of Ethiopian Customs." The presentation demonstrated how Ethiopia was trying to enhance the availability of information, the speed of information

processing and, subsequently, transparency and accountability through automating the Customs Authority with a software application provided by UNCTAD.

#### **Emerging Software Industry (agenda item 7.5.4)**

46. Herman Chinery-Hesse, of the software company Softribe, Ghana spoke on the “Emerging Software Industry”, focused on how software development was an emerging area for Africa’s private sector and must be supported by investments to build the industry in Africa which needs comparatively low investment, such that developing countries in the region can boost their economy.

#### **Innovation for Economic Growth (agenda item 7.5.5)**

47. Abdoullah Cissé from Université Gaston Berger, Sénégal and Coordinateur of the African Research Network Enabling Environment programme (ARN-CEE) spoke of the four thematic networks that had been launched by ECA with support from the Ford Foundation, one of which focused on promoting ICT industrialization in Africa.

#### **ICT and Poverty Reduction (agenda item 7.5.6)**

48. The presentation on “ICT and Poverty Reduction” presented by Baharul Islam, an ECA Consultant linked NICIs with PRPs and MDGs. The presentation illustrated the case of The Gambia and how synergies were created there. A methodology was proposed to connect the two processes systematically, in order to accelerate efforts towards poverty reduction.

49. Issues raised from this session were:

- Governments were also called upon to provide more financial resources to developing and financing ICTs, including building countries ICT industrialization capacity. The importance of up-to-date statistics was expressed by Egypt. This was due to observation that most of the figures in use are actually about 5 years out of date;
- There were calls for the improvement of all ICT statistics including an inventory of ICT expenditure in all ministries. The informal sector should also be taken into consideration in the establishment of ICT statistics. Participants wanted parliamentarians who vote ICT budget understand the need and the importance of ICT;
- Calls were made on the challenge on budgetary investments in ICT, which could bring benefits other budgetary lines, including the need for ICT bodies to assess the ICT needs of each country and propose adequate budgetary lines;
- The need to build the foundation of the e-Finance industry in Africa to integrate financial markets (national, regional, international) and facilitate transactional

- banking, and the need to modernise banking / financial industry info system;
- There were also calls to promote an e-Finance regulatory system conducive to market development in a secure system that can promote innovative financial services for SMMEs; and
- The need to promote local software industries in Africa.

## **Creating an Enabling Environment and E-Commerce (agenda item 7.6)**

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### **Pan-African E-commerce Initiative (agenda item 7.6.1)**

50. Makane Faye, DISD/ECA presented the ECA/IDRC study entitled Pan-African E-commerce Initiative (PECI), which summarized the proposed actions to be taken to promote e-commerce development in Africa. It reviewed the national legal and legislative frameworks in 12 surveyed countries, based on which a set of recommendations were developed.

### **WSIS ARN: creating an enabling environment (agenda item 7.6.2)**

51. Abdoullah Cissé, Senegal spoke of the work being undertaken by the ARN network on Creating an Enabling Environment, and discussed the findings of the research activities undertaken by the thematic network on cyberlaws in Africa.

### **Intellectual Property Rights (agenda item 7.6.3)**

52. Eskedar Nega, DISD/ECA presented a paper on “Intellectual Property Rights Management” and acknowledged this to be a major concern in the information age, as it shaped the way new wealth was created in the information economy.

## **Progress Made in the Implementation of the African Information Society (agenda item 7.7)**

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53. This session reviewed the progress made in the implementation of AISI and the way forward by endorsing the ECA programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007.

### **ECA's progress report on NICI implementation (agenda item 7.7.1)**

54. Atsuko Okuda, DISD/ECA, made a presentation on the “Status and Impact of the Development of National and Regional ICT Policies, Plans and Strategies” as a main vehicle for driving E-Economy in Africa. She said 28 countries have ICT policies and most of them have shifted the emphasis on the implementation on applications for sectors. Efforts are being put in



place to scale up in the harmonization of NICI at the sub-regional level through support to the RECs for sub-regional strategies. She pointed out the importance of monitoring and evaluation and encouraged all countries to engage in the SCAN-ICT.

#### **Partnerships Network (agenda item 7.7.2)**

55. Ms. Nnenna Nwakanma of the Africa Civil Society for the Information Society made a presentation on “Partnerships and Network in the Implementation of the African Information Society Initiative (AISI): the Civil Society story.” She discussed partnerships and the involvement of the African Civil Society in ICT issues in the form of consultations, trainings and workshops on regional levels, partnerships and collaboration. Ms. Nnenna also informed participants of the hosting, structuring, national networks and the challenges of the ACSIS. Some of the challenges raised were the need for a functional secretariat and the setting up of efficient Civil Society networks at all country levels.

#### **Report of the Library Working Group (agenda item 7.7.3)**

56. This presentation summarized the major discussion points of the Library Working Group. The Working Group discussed the progress made in various Library activities as well as Terms of Reference for the proposed Subcommittee on Knowledge, Libraries and Information Services for Development.

#### **Report on ECA’s activities in ICT and Library 2004-2005 and work programme for the biennium 2006-2007 (agenda item 7.7.4)**

57. Thierry Amoussougbo, from ECA presented the ECA and Library report during 2004-2005 and the work programme for the biennium 2006-2007. His report was structured into four axes including: assistance to member States for the development and implementation of ICT Policies and strategies (NICI or e-strategies), the management and development of information and knowledge resource to build member State capacities for Information for development; the promotion of partnership and network; and outreach activities for the development of the Information Society.

He presented the biannual programme and stressed that since the inception of AISI, ECA, in collaboration with partners, continue capacity building of member States in highlighting information for development and their participation of the continent in the global E-Economy. Based on the AISI 2010 targets, the next biennium will emphasize on harnessing information as an economic resource.



## Library Working Group (agenda item 7.8)

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58. Following the acceptance by the CODI-ICT/Library Subcommittee meeting for the setting up of a library working group, the group met and elected a Chairperson, and a Rapporteur, who held office for the duration of the meeting. The agenda and programme of work were adopted.

- Chair: South Africa
- Rapporteur: Nigeria

59. Participants: Approximately 28 participants from various Universities, Libraries and partner institutions attended the meeting of the Working Group.

60. The following documents were distributed:

- What makes information a strategic economic resource: the role of librarians and other information professionals in Africa (E/ECA/CODI/4/7/Add.2);
- National knowledge systems and the status of information access policies in Africa (E/ECA/CODI/4/50); and
- Discussion paper: the role of library services in a knowledge-based economy.

61. Ms. Petrina Amonoo, ECA Chief Librarian opened the session. She said this was a unique opportunity to meet separately as a library group to discuss issues pertinent to the library sector to take to the plenary. With WSIS asking libraries to fulfill a number of roles and play a greater part in the process of offering easy access to information and knowledge, space was needed to discuss these issues. Ms Amonoo introduced the panelists: Professor Kingo Mchombu from University of Namibia; and, Ms Ellen Tise of University of the Western Cape.

62. Professor Kingo Mchombu, University of Namibia in his presentation on “What makes information a strategic economic resource: the role of librarians and other information professionals in Africa”, looked critically at the issues raised in relation to the Information Society and the development of libraries and information centres in Africa. While data, information and knowledge were discussed, knowledge could be further divided into two divisions: tacit and explicit. He explained that it was much easier to represent explicit, or codified knowledge, than tacit, or uncoded knowledge.

63. Mr. Abraham Azubuike, ECA Library, presented a paper on “National knowledge systems and the status of information access policies in Africa”. He said this area had strong implications for ECA programme management. Two frameworks for enhancing knowledge systems were presented. In the ECA context, this would start as a divisional team that would be supported by

a CODI subcommittee. This subcommittee on Knowledge, Library and Information Services (KLIS) for development, would be created in a holistic way to maximize impact. The Terms of Reference for this subcommittee were proposed.

64. Issues raised included:

- Need for including indigenous knowledge in the work of libraries, which should be tapped for development and could be extended to create new forms of knowledge to solve local problems and reconnect with past knowledge achievements.
- African librarians needed to look at research needs and the information society, including what the scope of AVLIN;
- There was also a need to stimulate investment for knowledge development and re-tooling library skills; and
- Knowledge Management is an area in which librarians should be involved.

### **The Role of Libraries and Information Services in the Knowledge - Based Economy in the Context of the programme of work of the Committee on Development Information (agenda item 7.8.1)**

65. The group discussed the implications of information as an economic resource and other points raised on the work of CODI in the area of knowledge, libraries and information services. The group supported the need for creating a Subcommittee to cater for the library sector. Participants examined and reviewed an appropriate work programme and terms of reference for this Subcommittee, should it be warranted.

### **Working Group on Knowledge, Libraries and Information Services for Development (agenda item 7.8.2)**

#### **Discussion of programme of work and Terms of Reference of the new CODI Subcommittee on Knowledge, Libraries and Information Services for Development (agenda item 7.8.2.1)**

66. Following the acceptance by the CODI-ICT/Library Subcommittee meeting on Monday, 25 April 2005 for the setting up of a library working group, the group met and came up with appropriate propositions. The group discussed and adopted the draft report of the Working group.

67. The report of the AVLIN Advisory Committee Meeting to ICT/Libraries presented an analysis of the role and value of library and knowledge resources and recommended that the CODI Subcommittee on Knowledge, Libraries and Information Services (CODI-KLIS) be adopted.

### **Adoption of the report of the working group to CODI-ICT/Libraries (agenda item 7.8.3)**

68. This report was unanimously adopted at the end of the meeting for presentation to the Subcommittee on ICTs and Library.

### **Any other business (agenda item 7.9)**

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There was no other business.

### **Adoption of the report and closing session (agenda item 7.10)**

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69. The Chairperson made some observations on the meeting and its achievements and called on the OIC of DISD to make the closing remarks. The report was unanimously adopted at the end of the meeting for submission to the plenary session of CODI.

## **Subcommittee on Statistics (agenda item 8)**

70. The Subcommittee on Statistics of CODI IV held its second meeting at UNCC in Addis Ababa from 25 to 28 April 2005, with a pre-conference event devoted to the second meeting of the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA) convened on 24 April 2005.

### **Attendance**

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71. The meeting was attended by 17 representatives from the following member States of the Commission: Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia

72. In addition, observers from the following organizations attended the meeting: Observatoire Statistique et Économique de l'Afrique Sub-Saharienne (AFRISTAT), Centre de Suivi Écologique (CSE)-Dakar, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), École Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Économie Appliquée d'Abidjan (ENSEA), Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre in Dar-es-Salaam (EASTC), Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS), International Monetary

Fund General Data Dissemination System (IMF-GDDS), Institute of Statistics and Applied Economic (ISEA-Makerere University), Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS 21), Statistics Canada, United Nations Fund for Population Activities Country Support Teams (UNFPA/CST)-Dakar and Addis, United Nations Education, Science, Culture, and Organization (UNESCO) and West African Monetary Institute (WAMI).

## **Opening (agenda item 8.1)**

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73. The outgoing Vice-Chair (Zambia) called the meeting to order and invited Mr. Augustin Fosu, Director, Economic and Social Policy Division (ESPD), Economic Commission for Africa to make an opening statement.

## **Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work (agenda item 8.2)**

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74. The meeting considered and adopted its agenda and the programme of work. The outgoing vice-chairperson conducted the election of officers for the new Bureau, comprising a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur. The Bureau held office for the duration of the meeting. The Subcommittee elected the following bureau:

- Chairperson: Tanzania
- Vice-Chairperson: Tunisia
- Rapporteur: Ghana

## **Country Reports (agenda item 8.3)**

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75. The Secretariat presented a document (E/ECA/CODI/4/CRP/13) summarizing the annual reports of the following seven countries: Congo, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Niger, Sierra Leone and Tunisia.

76. The reports of South Africa, Madagascar, Kenya, Tanzania and Morocco were submitted to the Secretariat during the meeting. Mauritius made a presentation on its Continuous Multipurpose Household Survey (CMPHS) programme. Three other countries (Morocco, Tunisia, and Kenya) made a presentation on the major activities of their respective offices.

77. The Subcommittee noted that the template for country reports should include other components of the National Statistical Systems (NSSs) as well as other activities such as

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) activities, activities related to the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA), and General Data Dissemination Systems (GDDS) and/or SDDS elements.

78. The Subcommittee took note of the positive experiences of some member countries with National Statistical Boards and consultative councils, and suggested that ECA include a review of such experiences in the proposed study on “organization and management of NSS”.

79. The Subcommittee urged the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to remind countries of their responsibility to submit their country report, and give sufficient time for reports to be submitted.

### **Progress Reports, Policy and Technical Issues (agenda item 8.4)**

80. The Subcommittee reviewed the following documents:

- Report on Statistical activities (2003-2005) documents and Programme of work (2006-2007) (E/ECA/CODI/4/4) and Follow-up to the recommendations of CODI III (E/ECA/CODI/4/29), (Agenda item 8.4.1).
- Report on the follow-up to ABSA recommendations (E/ECA/CODI/4/20) (Agenda item 8.4.2).
- Report on the follow-up and recommendations to the Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV) (E/ECA/CODI/4/CRP/10) (Agenda item 8.4.3)
- Report on the Implementation of the 1993 SNA (E/ECA/CODI/4/11,) (Agenda item 8.4.4).
- E/ECA/CODI/4/38, The Subcommittee also received a PowerPoint presentation on the ECA Regional Statistical Database, (Agenda item 8.4.5).
- E/ECA/CODI/4/38, The Subcommittee also received a PowerPoint presentation on the ECA Regional Statistical Database, (Agenda item 8.4.5).

### **Report on statistical activities during the period June 2003-April 2005 and proposed work programme for the biennium 2006-2007 (agenda item 8.4.1)**

81. The Subcommittee considered ECA statistical activities during the period 2003-2005 and the proposed work programme for the biennium 2006-2007. The Secretariat also brought to the attention of participants the need for implementation of the recommendations of CODI III. The report highlighted achievements and constraints related to the implementation of the recommendations.

82. The Subcommittee noted continuous decline of funding to the STCs; and the Subcommittee requested that the programme of work for 2006–2007 be adjusted to take into account the priorities of world programmes such as the 2010 round of censuses, the implementation and revision of the 1993 SNA.

#### **Report on Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA) activities (agenda item 8.4.2)**

83. ABSA was established during CODI-III following one of the major recommendations of CODI-II.

#### **Report on the Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV) (agenda item 8.4.3)**

84. The Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV) was established in May 2004 by ADB, ECA, PARIS 21 and the World Bank. The Secretariat reported on its first meeting and on follow up of FASDEV recommendations, and outlined steps in the way forward.

#### **Assessment of the Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (1993 SNA) (agenda item 8.4.4)**

85. This agenda item focused on the “Progress report on the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (1993 SNA) in Africa”.

86. The Subcommittee took note of the poor level of transfer of technical knowledge to the national experts by visiting experts and lack of sustainability in the actions taken to this effect; and persistent lack of financial and human resources to enable effective actions for the implementation of the 1993 SNA.

87. The Subcommittee expressed concerns that only a small proportion of member States have made sufficient progress in the implementation of the 1993 SNA.

88. The Subcommittee expressed concerns about the inadequate assistance provided by ECA to African countries in the implementation of the 1993 SNA.

89. The Subcommittee recommended ECA to play a substantial role in the implementation of the 1993 SNA, with special emphasis on capacity building activities, including workshops, training, material provision and advisory missions, and ensuring effective collaboration with other regional

institutions.

### **Development of an ECA Regional Statistical Database (agenda item 8.4.5)**

90. The meeting examined the agenda item related to statistical databases. A report on the development of the ECA Regional Statistical Database was presented, followed by a demonstration of the prototype already developed.

91. The Subcommittee appreciated the work done by the ECA in the implementation on Statistical Database; the Subcommittee noted that access to the database should be free of charge for African countries and institutions that have provided their data, to encourage the use of statistics in the region.

### **International cooperation and interagency coordination and liaison in the area of statistics (agenda item 8.5)**

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92. International cooperation and interagency coordination and liaison in the area of statistics were essential for implementation.

### **Reports on regional and sub-regional activities for statistical development in Africa by partners (agenda item 8.5.1)**

93. Some multilateral and bilateral partners reported on their achievements and current programmes relevant to the African region.

### **Perspectives (agenda item 8.6)**

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94. The following documents were presented to the Subcommittee on this item agenda: (a) The project on gender disaggregated statistics funded by the United Nations Development Account Programme; (b) The 2010 world programme on population and housing censuses (E/ECA/CODI/4/37); and, (c) The commission for Africa (E/ECA/CODI/4/40)

### **Gender and Statistics Project (agenda item 8.6.1)**

95. Under this agenda item, a Briefing Note on the Gender Statistics Project was presented and discussed.

96. The Subcommittee took note of the proposed project on Gender disaggregated statistics to be implemented by the African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD) in collaboration with the Statistics Team, and emphasized the need for the project design to ensure sustainability of the

activities at both ECA and participating countries levels.

### **The 2010 Round on Population and Housing Censuses (agenda item 8.6.2)**

97. Under this agenda item, a Briefing Note on the 2010 World Programme of Population and Housing Censuses was discussed.

98. The Subcommittee recommended that ECA come up with a format to identify lessons learned by countries on previous censuses, as inputs to the preparations for the 2010 Round of the Population and Housing Censuses.

99. The Subcommittee suggested that ECA takes the necessary steps to compile information from countries with respect to their experiences with the population and housing censuses and be the main source of information.

### **The Commission for Africa Statement on Statistics (agenda item 8.6.3)**

100. The Commission for Africa statement on statistics formed the basis of this discussion. The Subcommittee requested ECA to circulate to member States the statistics component of the Commission for Africa report, and the Subcommittee urged ECA to tap into and take advantage of the report of the Commission for Africa.

### **Adoption of the report (agenda item 8.7)**

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101. The Subcommittee adopted its Report on Statistics, for submission to the plenary session of CODI. The Chairperson made some observations on the meeting and its achievements and then called on the Director of ESPD to make concluding remarks. The Chairperson closed the meeting.

### **Subcommittee on Geoinformation (agenda item 9)**

102. The meeting of the Sub-Committee was organized in joint plenary sessions with the Subcommittees on ICT and Statistics, and held separate parallel sessions on policy issues. Technical issues raised were new developments, research and applications. Special events included a technical exhibition of geoinformation tools, equipment and services, an ad hoc experts' group meeting on situs addressing in Africa, a workshop on factors affecting the use of geoinformation in development, and another on operationalising the integration of spatial data infrastructures



(SDIs) into national information policies. In order to make enough time for presentations and discussions the Secretariat selected only some of the background papers for the various sessions.

## Attendance

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103. The following member states attended the meeting: Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Also observers from Canada, Japan, Sweden and USA were represented.

104. Observers from the following organizations and institutions attended the meeting: African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS), EIS Africa, ESRI, Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI), International Cartographic Association (ICA), International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), ITC, NASRDA, Natural Resources Canada, RCMRD, RECTAS, Canadian Space Agency, South African Space Agency, SEAMIC, GEOCAT, University of Lagos, Oaker Services, Human Sciences Research Council, Map Integration Technologies, JICA, MAPS Geo systems

## Opening (agenda item 9.1)

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105. The meeting was opened by the outgoing Chair, Kenya who then called for the election of the Executive Bureau.

## Introduction, organization of work and election of officers (agenda item 9.2)

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106. The meeting elected the Chairperson, first and second Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur, to constitute the new Bureau and they held office for the duration of the meeting. The Secretariat made a brief presentation on CODI-Geo and the way the work of the Sub-Committee had been organized, including both technical and logistic matters. The Draft provisional agenda and Draft programme of work were adopted.

The following officers were elected:

- Chair: Sudan
- First vice Chair: Swaziland

- Second vice Chair: Congo
- Rapporteur: Ethiopia

107. After the handing over process, the new Chair thanked the outgoing group and expressed commitment to implementation of CODI recommendations and implementations.

108. Secretariat representative Mr. Chukwudozie Ezigbalike, Team Leader of the Geoinformation team at ECA, presented the agenda for the three days and invited participants to have bilateral meetings with international partners.

### Geoinformation as an Economic Resource (Agenda Item 9.3)

109. Mr. Doug Culham, Deputy Surveyor General from Earth Sciences Sector of Natural Resources, Canada made a presentation on “Cadastral Reform, Property Rights and Economic Development”. He noted that the objective of Cadastral Reform was to develop land law, registry and survey systems into an integrated cadastral and land management programme that could sustainably support economic development and stewardship of natural resources. The following key issues were recommended from the Canadian experience:

- There needs to be a focus on property, parcel and cadastral institutional development;
- There is no perfect cadastral model for all circumstances;
- Models must be flexible and evolvable; and
- Authorities must reach out to constituents and “bring the dialogue down to the users”.

110. Mr. Demola Omojola, who spoke on behalf of the geoinformation respondent to the keynote speech, summarized issues from the keynote session relevant to the theme of Geoinformation as an Economic Resources. He reiterated the importance of cadastre as an economic resource and noted that Cadastre systems should be scalable and should meet the needs of the society.

111. The following issues were raised during the discussions that ensued.

- Canada’s cadastral reform was aimed at increasing investment, GDP levels but experience showed that measuring social and cultural benefits of cadastral reform is hard to quantify. In addition, preservation of people’s right to decision-making is key to effective reform. In Canada they were focusing on:
  - Aboriginal self-government, self-reliance and autonomy;

- Natural Resource and Community Development; and
- Preservation of First Nation lands.

112. Participants agreed on raising awareness on the value of geo-information as a decision-making tool before presenting the technology elements to policymakers. In addition, there is a need for a content-driven approach as opposed to a technology-driven one.

113. It was noted that Geoinformation development has not progressed at the same pace as traditional ICTs and if 80% of information is geographic, efforts are needed in increasing funding for geoinformation activities.

114. It was agreed that the issue of security of people and sovereignty of territories are important to economic development. A fair cadastral system was protective and would bring about increases in production. In this regard, Canada's experience with communities, indigenous peoples and First Nation scenarios might have similarities to Africa's case.

115. The issue of increasing the use of remote sensing focused on low cost possibilities, including wireless technologies and high bandwidth that allow development of self-sustainability and offer numerous possibilities, such as real time sensors for Early warning systems. However these efforts need to be accompanied by training in regional and academic institutes.

116. The need for human and institutional capacity building was highlighted, as well as the urgency to formulate and accelerate an SDI policy for Africa.

117. It was agreed that decision-makers need to speak out on these issues upon their return to their respective countries. Only a few countries had a proper plan and strategy on geo-information. It was pointed out that lessons should be learnt from South America which is now setting up strategies for the continent.

118. Participants further agreed on the need for production of reliable data before formulating policies based on existing unreliable data.

### **Progress reports (agenda item 9.4)**

119. The Secretariat presented a report on ECA's activities in the area of geoinformation since CODI.3. The report included a summary of the status of SDI development in Member States, with emphasis on the linkages between SDI and the NICI process. The outgoing Chair of the Executive Working Group (EWG) reported on the activities of the EWG. Brief reports were also made by ECA regional centres and other partner organizations, including RECTAS, RCMRD,

AOCRS, SEAMIC, GSDI, ICA and JICA.

## Policy issues (agenda item 9.5)

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### Integration of SDI and NICI (agenda item 9.5.1)

120. The findings of the study on the integration of SDI into the NICI process were presented by André Bassolé, ECA Consultant. After describing the process behind the SDI and NICI development, he highlighted the importance of the integration of the two processes to fully implement the AISI, and proposed four scenarios based on the respective levels of SDI and NICI development in the countries. It was also explained that the study would be further refined after receiving contributions from the CODI and a peer-reviews exercise. Discussions covered the following:

- It was suggested to look into the differences in stakeholder communities size and quality on both sides as a possible explanation of the imbalance between SDI and NICI development levels in Africa
- Some participants felt that integration following the “hard solution” would not be suitable for the GI community, while others expressed their wish to see SDI development closely related to the ICT sector
- It was strongly expressed by a number of participants that GI is part and parcel of ICT and therefore NICI and SDI integration was logical, even obvious.
- A contribution from South Africa provided a practical example of collaboration between the GI and the ICT communities to avoid duplication.
- SDI development is a long process, and the progress made so far by Africa is far from being negligible. The Statistics sector, one of the three pillars of Information for development should be included in the integration debate.
- The meeting welcomed an offer by ECA to open an online discussion for a limited time (e.g. 1 – 2 months) on the draft study report before releasing its final version.

121. The meeting endorsed the principle of SDI and NICI integration, including the statistics sector in the process.

### Situs addressing systems report (agenda item 9.5.2)

122. Mr. Remy Sietchiping presented the report of the pre-meeting ad hoc experts' group meeting on situs addressing. He presented the objectives of the initiative and outlined the needs for situs addressing and made recommendations on the way forward.

123. The following issues were raised:

- Situs addressing should be a component of the geographical names activities in the various countries.
- It was suggested that the term “Informal settlements” be used in lieu of “Slums”.
- It was further suggested that major stakeholders could be contacted (e.g. Ministries of Telecommunication, etc.) to support projects on situs addressing.
- One of the purposes of the proposed system was to standardize and integrate various systems and datasets, including property registry
- The purpose of the study was also to provide guidance to the countries when planning and formulating addressing systems.

124. The sub-committee adopted the report for presentation to the CODI

### **Use of GI in development (Agenda Item 9.5.3)**

125. The meeting received the report of the pre-meeting workshop on “the use of geoinformation for development”, held at ECA on 23 and 24 April 2003. The report was presented by Craig Schwabe of the South African Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). The report focused on the factors affecting the use of geoinformation and included the concluding remarks made by the participants with three recommendations on

- Standardization of cadastral systems in African countries
- The establishment of an operational Working Group on communication to reach regional, sub-regional and national decision makers
- ECA to facilitate meetings within countries of the three arms of the CODI on a regular basis.

126. It was noted that many of the issues raised had already been incorporated in the workplan of the EWG of the CODI-GEO. The meeting endorsed the report.

## **Technical issues (agenda item 9.6)**

127. In this session reports on the following were presented to the subcommittee:

### **Mapping Africa for Africa (agenda item 9.6.1)**

128. Mr. Derrick presented the Durban Declaration of Mapping Africa for Africa (MAFA) for discussion and adoption. The subcommittee adopted the 16-point recommendations.

129. The recommendations requested, among other things, the International Cartographic Association (ICA) to establish a working group on MAFA to coordinate its implementation. It was reported that the ICA has already established the working group, chaired by Mr. Haggai Nyapola of Kenya.

#### **CODI-GEO Executive Working Group (agenda item 9.6.2)**

130. As part of the decisions of the CODI 3 to appoint a permanent working group to oversee the activities of the CODI-GEO, the Executive Working Group (EWG) was established and Mr. Kombo Mwero, Director of Survey of Kenya, presented its report to the subcommittee.

131. The report informed the subcommittee that the EWG had met in August 2004 and established four working groups namely: Capacity Building, Core Datasets, AFREF and Standards. The working groups prepared the terms of references and elected members of the groups.

132. It was also reported that ECA established an online discussion forum for the EWG and requested an increased number of meetings to facilitate and expedite the activities of the EWG. The EWG requested ECA to establish an outreach programme to member countries to enhance the impact on the progress and development of CODI-GEO initiatives.

#### **International Cartographic Association (agenda item 9.6.3)**

133. The International Cartographic Association (ICA) report was presented to the subcommittee by the President, Prof. Bengt Rystedt, who indicating that ICA has 76 member countries out of which 12 are Africa. The report urged non-member African Countries to join the association.

134. The report also indicated that ICA had accepted the request of the Durban Declaration of MAFA and established a working group for MAFA and a Terms of Reference for the working group had been prepared.

#### **African Geodetic Reference Frame (agenda item 9.6.4)**

135. The report of the Working Group on African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF) was presented by Dr. Wilber Otichilo, Director-General of RCMRD. It was also reported that the working group is also the steering committee of AFREF and has received support from the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA), which sponsored the travel of the members to AARSE (Nairobi, November 2004) and GSDI (Cairo, April 2005) conferences to enable them hold. He reported that during the Cairo meeting, potential partners were briefed and the draft of a call for participation (CfP) was prepared. The CfP is being finalized for ECA to dispatch to partners and stakeholders.

### **Second Administrative Level Boundaries (agenda item 9.6.5)**

136. Mr. Steve Ebener presented a report on Second Administrative Level Boundaries (SALB) and informed the meeting of the 2nd and 3rd level administrative boundaries mapping and records of the historical changes programme of the United Nations. The programme was active in Africa and is expected to accomplish its objectives in 2006. The report indicated the importance of the coordination with the Statistics subcommittee which included the essential component of the SALB mapping.

### **New trends and developments Africa's Earth Observing and Communication Satellite Programmes (agenda item 9.7)**

137. The meeting received three presentations on Nigeria's Earth Observing and Communication Satellite Programmes, South African Satellite Programme and Canadian Space Agency Activities. It was noted that the Canadian Space agency is new in Africa but currently has some collaborative projects in some countries, namely Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya and Egypt. The projects are complimenting existing activities of other major space agencies, rather than competing with.

138. The progress made in Africa was commended. However, concerns were expressed about the sustainability of such initiatives, referring to the case of one of South Africa's satellite that was lost in orbit; it is hoped that the loss will not discourage others from embarking on space activities. An explanation was made that the loss of satellite was due to an orbital allocation problem. The presenter on the South African space programme stated that the main point to emphasize with respect to the satellite was to demonstrate the capabilities.

### **Any other business (agenda item 9.8)**

139. The need to elect members to represent the sub regions in the executive working group (EWG) of CODI-Geo was raised. The secretariat explained that the members of the bureau constitute the EWG, together with representatives of RECTAS, RCMRD, AOCRS and EIS-Africa. When a sub region is not represented in the bureau, then a representative of that sub region to the EWG should be elected. Burkina Faso (represented by Desiré Compaoré) was therefore elected to represent West Africa in the EWG.

### **Adoption of the report and closing (agenda item 9.9)**

140. The report of the subcommittee was discussed and adopted. The Chair then declared the formal part of the meeting closed.

## **A. Resumed Plenary Session**

### **Reports of the Sub-Committees (agenda item 10)**

141. During the resumed plenary session, participants listened to the reading of the recommendations made and adopted by the Sub-Committee. Participants were also requested to send amendments to their respective sub-committees.

### **Adoption of the report and closing session (agenda item 11)**

142. The Chair made some observations on the meeting and its achievements and then called on the OIC of DISD, to make her closing remarks. The Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. K.Y Amoako made a few remarks and welcomed the recommendations made by the Sub-committees.



## Annex 1. Resolutions of the Fourth Meeting of the Committee on Development Information

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### Resolutions of the Subcommittee on ICT/Libraries

#### 1. Implementation of CODI recommendations

Recognizing the importance of monitoring the progress made in the implementation of the CODI recommendations,

**CODI recommends that each member State should**

- a) Set up a national CODI committee to coordinate and monitor the implementation of CODI recommendations and report the outcomes to the next CODI meeting

**CODI recommends that ECA should**

- b) Set up a mechanism to follow up with member States on the implementation of recommendations within specified time limits when appropriate

#### 2. Creating an enabling environment for the development of the e-economy

##### *Noting that*

Information is a strategic economic resource in the emerging e-economy and that knowledge industries are driving much of the recent economic growth

Information and knowledge industries could offer major opportunities for economic growth in Africa

Policy frameworks and legal instruments play a crucial role in promoting the development of the new economy and facilitating Africa's participation in the global networked economy

The growth of Africa's mobile markets outpaces the rest of the world

**CODI Recommends that member States should**

- a) Scale up investments in infrastructure development and e-commerce initiatives
- b) Put in place a balanced regulatory framework to encourage the private sector to

- drive the growth of the e-economy
- c) Encourage more participatory policy processes involving all stakeholders
- d) Involve new and traditional media to reach the public
- e) Ensure policy consistency, continuity and implementation with appropriate financial mechanisms
- f) Promote research and development (R&D) as a new mode of wealth creation and take appropriate measures to facilitate ICT industrialization, including development of hardware
- g) Harness creative and innovative technologies and business models, such as Voice over IP (VoIP), ICT-enabled export services and mobile commerce, to enhance competitiveness of Africa's private sector and meet the needs of the public
- h) Proactively attract foreign knowledge and ICT businesses through foreign direct investment (FDI), co-investment and joint ventures
- i) Increase efforts to develop and expand infrastructure as a foundation of the e-economy, while reducing telecommunications tariffs
- j) Support training institutions and centres of excellence to produce the required critical mass of ICT-skilled human resources
- k) Support the creation and growth of indigenous knowledge and ICT-based large businesses and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) through adequate financing mechanisms and capacity building programmes and services
- l) Encourage the procurement of ICT products and services from African ICT providers to incubate talent and expand skills transfer
- m) Set up a national committee to address Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues in the context of e-strategies
- n) Review the formulation and enforcement of cyber laws and build the capacity of law enforcement personnel in tackling cyber crimes in accordance with basic human rights
- o) Take into consideration the need for enhancing content creation
- p) Ensure that the WSIS Plans of Action and Accra Commitments are implemented
- q) Establish regulatory mechanisms with regard to media and multi-media content
- r) Endeavour to formulate and implement e-strategies with strong linkages to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs)
- s) Allocate a certain percentage of national budgets to ICT activities in various ministries, departments and agencies

#### **CODI recommends that ECA should**

- a) Assist member States to raise awareness on the challenges and opportunities of e-commerce

- b) Increase assistance to member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the harmonization of policies and regulations with a view to developing sub-regional and regional markets, attracting FDI and promoting regional integration
- c) Support the implementation of initiatives to enhance capacity of member States in the area of monitoring and evaluating progress made through Information Society indicators
- d) Scale up its support to member States in the area of institutional and individual capacity building in the formulation and development of e-strategies as a vehicle to create an enabling environment
- e) Support member States to set up a mechanism at the national, regional and international levels to implement and evaluate the activities and initiatives derived from the WSIS Plans of Action and Accra Commitments
- f) Undertake a study on financing mechanisms for ICT businesses and initiatives
- g) Strengthen and harmonize the existing sub-regional and regional regulatory activities in cooperation with the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU)
- h) Encourage South-South cooperation, especially within the African region

### **3. Mobilizing stakeholders and partners**

Highlighting the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and the establishment of an inclusive Information Society

#### **CODI recommends that member States should**

- a) Encourage the participation of women and disadvantaged entrepreneurs in e-commerce by supporting initiatives such as the Enterprise Development Facility (EDF), and implement initiatives specifically targeting at addressing gender imbalance
- b) Put in place a mechanism to address issues, such as security, privacy, confidentiality, consumer trust and tax collection
- c) Initiate and implement concrete Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and multi-stakeholder initiatives
- d) Encourage capacity building of civil society at the national and grassroots levels
- e) Encourage the active participation of youth in Information Society processes and support capacity building for youth at the national level

### **CODI recommends that ECA should**

- a) Support capacity building and training of various stakeholders, such as media, public sector, private sector, academia, civil society, parliamentarians, youth and the differently-abled on the use of ICTs to facilitate their participation in the e-economy
- b) Assist member States to mainstream gender in e-strategies and e-commerce policies, legislation and regulations, and to expedite gender-balanced participation in the e-economy
- c) Establish a network of African parliamentarians to enhance information exchange and enable them to play a key role in the development of the African Information Society
- d) Support the African Youth ICT4D Network (AYIN) in the implementation of its Africa Plan to advance Africa's Information Society agenda

### **CODI recommends that AU/NEPAD and the international community should**

Support member States in the implementation of ICT initiatives the MDGs, PRSPs and international competitiveness, taking into consideration national policies and specificities

### **CODI recommends that AU/NEPAD and the international community should**

Support member States in the implementation of ICT initiatives to help advance MDGs, PRSPs and international competitiveness, taking into consideration national policies and specificities

## **4. Support to Free and Open Source Software (FOSS)**

Recognizing the potential of FOSS as an emerging industry, employment creator and driving force of ICT development and the e-economy,

### **CODI recommends that member States should**

- a) Consider FOSS as a strategic option to strengthen the provision of cost-effective, easily adaptable and modifiable services to citizens
- b) Raise awareness and build capacity on information security issues and concerns
- c) Take into account FOSS in the formulation and implementation of ICT industrialization initiatives
- d) Introduce training programmes in the use of FOSS
- e) Encourage participation of FOSS communities in the NICI formulation and

- implementation processes
- f) Ensure Open standards and interoperability of computer operating systems which are now being considered part of infrastructure

### **CODI recommends that ECA should**

Support member States to develop the capacity of FOSS

## **CODI-ICT/Libraries Recommendations for Enhanced role of Knowledge, Libraries and Information Services for Development**

### ***Recognizing:***

The importance and contributions of knowledge, libraries, archives, documentation centres, and information services in economic and human development, including in achieving the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals and African Information Society Initiatives and the Action Plan of the World Summit on the Information Society.

### ***Noting:***

The absence of a specific body in the current structure of CODI dealing exclusively with reviewing the work of, and advising the ECA in this area.

### **The following recommendations were made:**

That ECA should

- a) Set up a Subcommittee on Knowledge, Libraries and Information Services for Development (CODI-KLIS), under the Committee of Development Information (CODI), with membership from member States. CODI-KLIS would be responsible for proposing policy directions, including national objectives; and evaluating progress at the national level.
- b) Review the objectives and strategies of the African Information Society Initiative (AISI) to elaborate the role and use of libraries, archives, documentation centres and other information services in African development strategies.
- c) Establish a policy framework to include libraries and knowledge creation and management in the National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) plan.
- d) Create performance indicators for the proposed Knowledge, Libraries and Information Services for Development Subcommittee.
- e) Advocate and promote free and equal access to information.
- f) Advocate for the introduction and promotion of knowledge management in

member countries.

- g) Play a pivotal role in promoting dissemination of knowledge and enhance its involvement in e-government initiatives in Africa.
- h) Play a pivotal role in promoting development communication, including developing community information resource centres.
- i) Focus on content in all its forms, including oral and indigenous knowledge.
- j) Encourage integration between ICT, libraries and other information services.
- k) Form partnerships among information providers, industry and government.
- l) Target well-identified projects which it supports for the strengthening of capacity.
- m) Include national library associations as well as library schools and other similar professional bodies in its partnership arrangements.
- n) Support the development of digital and virtual libraries through projects such as the African Virtual Library and Information Network (AVLIN).

### **That Member States**

- a) Develop national knowledge systems (involving national libraries, national archives and information, documentation centres, research councils, etc.) as broad-based frameworks to actively pursue an integrated knowledge and information strategy to carry out Information Society schemes, as well as economic and human development, including meeting Millennium Development Goals.
- b) Adopt a holistic framework in developing national information policies to ensure completeness of their Information Society strategies, and to use broad-based implementation strategies in driving the national Information Society agenda.
- c) Provide resources for the establishment of hybrid libraries in line with the goals set out in the WSIS Plan of Action.
- d) Ensure that libraries and information centres are adequately provided for in national and sub-national budgets.
- e) Recognize the current transition to an Information Society and develop mechanisms to ensure the adequate transformation.

## **Resolutions of the subcommittee on Statistics**

*Recalling* the resolutions made during CODI II and CODI III;

*Noting* the country reports presented to CODI IV by: Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Sierra Leone and Tunisia;

*Having examined* the reports on: (i) the first and second meetings of the Advisory Board on

Statistics in Africa (ABSA); (ii) the FASDEV meeting; (iii) the assessment of the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) in the region; and, (iv) ECA statistical database development;

*Bearing in mind* the role of sub-regional institutions such as AFRISTAT, COMESA, EAC, ECOWAS, SADC, WAEMU, WAMI, etc., in the development of statistics in Africa;

*Aware* of the progress made by a number of countries in preparing strategic plans for statistics, and that many National Statistical Offices (NSOs) are constrained in their operations due to the traditional civil service practices;

*Highly aware* of the importance of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses programme and the urgent need for data for monitoring the MDGs, PRSPs, NEPAD and the APRM;

*Appreciative* of the important role of technical partners in promoting the use of statistics at the sub-national, national, sub-regional and regional levels with advocacy tools;

*Recognizing* the various initiatives undertaken by NSOs in data collection;

*Noting* the slow pace of adapting new statistical methodologies and the deficit in the number of statisticians;

*Noting also* that the lack of ownership, inadequacy of financial resources, lack of institutional and human capacity continues to impede statistical development in Africa;

*Recognizing further* the significant advancements in information and communication technologies and the need to increase their use in statistical operations;

*Recognizing* the bottlenecks statistical training centres are facing in building and strengthening statistical capacity;

*Concerned* that only a small proportion of member States have made commendable progress in the implementation of the 1993 SNA, which was largely made possible by the existence of technical capacity local or external; and,

*Convinced* that urgent and appropriate steps should be taken on the Continent to address the following issues:

### On National Strategy for the Development of Statistics

- a) *Reiterates* its call for member States to have formulated and begun the implementation of their NSDSs by 2006, preferably using the guidelines developed by PARIS21;
- b) *Requests* technical and financial partners to continue to support the process of developing NSDSs;

### On Institutional frameworks

- a) *Urges* member States to facilitate the review of their national institutional frameworks for statistical work by strengthening, and in particular updating, where needed, the legal instruments that is, their Statistical Acts;
- b) *Encourages* member States to establish, where this is not in place, a high level supervisory and/or advisory mechanism(s) to ensure effective coordination and implementation of statistical development activities in the countries;

### On the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses

- a) *Urges* countries to effectively participate in the programme;
- b) *Urges* ECA to take leadership in ensuring the success of the 2010 round of Population and Housing Censuses by:
  - i. Integrating these activities in the 2006-2007 work programme,
  - ii. Putting in place a technical working group to articulate the African position;

### On collaboration among the stakeholders in statistical capacity building in Africa

- a) *Encourages* ECA to enhance its collaboration with partners; as well as South-South cooperation on existing efforts in strengthening statistical capacities in Africa;
- b) *Encourages* regional and sub-regional organizations to share information on their proposed work programme with ECA;
- c) *Encourages* member States to promote South-South cooperation in strengthening statistical capacities in Africa

### On use of Information and Communication Technologies

- a) *Recommends* that countries intensify the use of ICT tools (GPS, GIS, PDAs, web-based databases, etc.) and networks to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in the production and dissemination of statistical information;
- b) *Recommends* that countries promote the effective use of statistics by exploiting a



wide range of outputs (including user-friendly products), and existing networks to publicize the results of surveys.

#### On Monitoring Development

*Urges* the statistical community to extend the established framework for poverty monitoring (MDGs and PRSPs) to the other components of the new development agenda, such as NEPAD;

#### On Training

- a) *Calls upon* countries to renew their commitment to training initiatives with the support of partners in development;
- b) *Emphasizes* the need for collaboration among Statistical Training Centres at national, sub-regional and regional levels;
- c) *Encourages* cooperation between Statistical Training Centres and regional and sub-regional organizations, and other international institutions;

#### On National Accounts

- a) *Urges* countries to accelerate the implementation of the 1993 SNA by allocating adequate resources to National Statistical Offices and other agencies responsible for national accounts;
- b) *Calls upon* ECA to coordinate regional and sub-regional organizations to take the lead in devising strategies for, and providing effective support in, the implementation of the 1993 SNA;
- c) *Urges* ECA to initiate and organize within its 2006–2007 work programme, consultations among countries, regional and sub-regional organizations in the framework of the revision of the 1993 SNA.

#### On Statistical Capacity in the ECA

*Urges* ECA to accord the statistical function of the Commission the importance it deserves given the increasing need for statistics for development in the region;

#### On Financing

- a) *Urges* countries to commit adequate resources in support of statistical activities; and,
- b) *Encourages* development partners to coordinate their statistical development assistance in line with the national strategic plans.

## Resolutions of the Subcommittee on Geoinformation

### On Integration:

#### Recognizing

That Geoinformation is part of the AISI, yet the developments of Geoinformation policies have been made independently from the overall information policies of member States;

That there is need to include Geoinformation in National Infostructure content in order to fully realize the objectives of AISI

#### *Noting*

That a physical mapping infrastructure needs to be in place before Geoinformation can be collected and processed

### Recommends

- a) That member States that have not yet started to develop SDIs and NICIs should adopt an integrated approach when developing their national e-strategies;
- b) That member States that have already started SDIs and/or NICIs, should ensure that links are created between the two with strong coordinating mechanisms;
- c) That governments allocate necessary resources to extend and maintain the mapping infrastructure, including geodetic framework and core datasets;

### On Situs Addressing

#### *Noting*

The central role of addressing systems in the development of location-based services, e-commerce and e-government applications and for regional integration and globalization;

The poor availability of addressing systems in Africa

### Recommends

- a) Inclusion of Situs addressing as a component of core datasets of NSDIs and national infostructure content;
- b) That member States should develop national guidelines on addressing complying with international practices and start their implementation;

- c) That a “Working Group on Situs Addressing” be established under the Executive Working Group of CODI-Geo

## **On Mapping Africa for Africa**

### *Recognizing*

That up-to-date, relevant, standardized and integrated Geoinformation and statistical information are critical for sound decision-making;

That there is a lack of a programmematic approach to the collection, maintenance and dissemination of such information;

That most of the Infostructure content for Africa is the responsibility of member States and institutions;

That the availability of National Administrative Divisions as a fundamental dataset is crucial for the analysis and management of socio-economic phenomena;

### **Recommends**

The adoption of the Durban Statement on Mapping Africa for Africa (MAfA)

### **Welcomes**

- a) The efforts of the Second Administrative Level Boundaries Project (SALB) activated by the UN Geographic Working Group (UNWIG) as a basic platform for the collection, management, visualization and sharing of socio-economic data at sub-national level;
- b) The efforts of the ICA working group on MAfA

### **Urges**

Member States, particularly through their National Mapping Agencies (NMAs), to

- Implement the recommendations of the Durban Statement on MAfA, and
- Support the SALB project and provide the necessary data and information it requires;

## **On African Resource Management Constellation System**

### *Aware*

That earth observation and communication satellite systems are indispensable components of the

infrastructure needed to collect and access real-time Geoinformation

### **Recommends**

That member States participate in the African Resource Management (ARM) Constellation System as part of the SDI/NICI processes to ensure maximum benefit.

## Annex 2. Agenda

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### Theme of the Meeting: « Information as an Economic Resource »

#### Plenary Sessions

1. Opening
2. Election of officers and organization of work
3. Key introductory panel: “ Information as an Economic Resource”
4. Information in the economic sectors
5. Information for economic management and entrepreneurship
6. The Information Industry

#### Subcommittees sessions

7. Subcommittee on Information and Communication Technologies and Library
8. Subcommittee on Statistics
9. Subcommittee on Geoinformation

#### Plenary sessions

10. Reports of the Subcommittees
11. Date and venue of next meeting
12. Any other business
13. Adoption of the report and closing session

#### Subcommittee sessions (parallel sessions)

#### 7. Subcommittee on Information and Communication Technologies and Library (CODI-ICT)

- 7.1 Opening
- 7.2 Election of officers and adoption of programme of work
- 7.3 Information as an economic resource: ICT in Economic Growth
- 7.4 Report of activities
  - 7.4.1 Report on recommendations from CODI III
  - 7.4.2 Report of the African Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC)
  - 7.4.3 Report of the E-economy Workshop
  - 7.4.4 Report of the OSS Workshop

#### 7.4.5 WSIS Accra commitments and the way forward

### 7.5 ICT in Socio-Economic Development

- 7.5.1 Emerging features of African Information Economy
- 7.5.2 E-services in Africa: the banking and financial service sectors
- 7.5.3 Trade Facilitation: the case of automation of Ethiopian Customs
- 7.5.4 Emerging Software Industry
- 7.5.5 Innovation for Economic Growth
- 7.5.6 ICT and Poverty Reduction

### 7.6 Creating an Enabling Environment and E-Commerce

- 7.6.1 Pan-African E-commerce Initiative
- 7.6.2 WSIS ARN: creating an enabling environment
- 7.6.3 Intellectual Property Rights

### 7.7 Progress Made in the Implementation of the African Information Society

- 7.7.1 ECA's progress report on NICI implementation
- 7.7.2 Partnerships Network
- 7.7.3 Report of the Library Working Group
- 7.7.4 Report on ECA's activities in ICT and library 2004-2005 and work programme for the biennium 2006-2007

### 7.8 Library working group

- 7.8.1 The Role of Libraries and Information Services in the Knowledge-Based Economy in the Context of the programme of work of the Committee on Development Information
- 7.8.2 Working Group on Knowledge, Libraries and Information Services for Development
  - 7.8.2.1 Discussion of programme of work and Terms of Reference of the new CODI Sub-committee on Knowledge, Libraries and Information Services for Development
- 7.8.3 Adoption of the report of the working group to CODI-ICT/Libraries

### 7.9 Any other business

### 7.10 Adoption of the report and closing session

## 8. Subcommittee on Statistics

### 8.1 Opening

### 8.2 Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work

### 8.3 Country reports

### 8.4 Progress reports, policy and technical issues

- 8.4.1 Report on statistical activities during the period June 2003-April 2005 and proposed work programme for the biennium 2006-2007
- 8.4.2 Report on Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA) activities
- 8.4.3 Report on the Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV)
- 8.4.4 Assessment of the Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (1993 SNA)
- 8.4.5 Development of an ECA Regional Statistical Database

### 8.5 International cooperation and interagency coordination and liaison in the area of statistics

- 8.5.1 Reports on regional and sub-regional activities for statistical development in Africa by partners

### 8.6 Perspectives

- 8.6.1 Gender and statistics project
- 8.6.2 The 2010 Round on population and housing censuses
- 8.6.3 The Commission for Africa statement on statistics

### 8.7 Adoption of the report

## **9. Subcommittee on Geoinformation**

### 9.1 Opening

### 9.2 Introduction, organization of work and election of officers

### 9.3 Geoinformation as an economic resource

### 9.4 Progress reports

### 9.5 Policy issues

- 9.5.1 Integration of SDI and NICI
- 9.5.2 Addressing systems report

### 9.6 Technical Issues

- 9.6.1 Mapping Africa for Africa (MAFA)
- 9.6.2 Spatial Data content standards for NSDI
- 9.6.3 Common Geodetic Framework for Africa (AFREF)
- 9.6.4 Second Administrative Level Boundaries (SALB)

### 9.7 New trends and developments: Africa's Earth Observing and Communication Satellite Programmes

### 9.8 Any other business

## 9.9 Adoption of the report and closing

### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

- SE1: Meeting on Situs Addressing in Africa
- SE2: Workshop on Use of Geoinformation in Development (Human Sciences Research Council)
- SE3: ePol-NET Africa Workshop: Towards an e-economy in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges
- SE4: Using Open Source Software for Information for Development
- SE5: Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for WSIS II: developing a Regional Plan of Action
- SE6: Meeting on Creating and Managing Digital Content
- SE7: AVLIN Meeting
- SE8: ABSA Meeting
- SE9: Workshop: Operationalization of SDI/NICI Integration
- SE10: Research and Applications: presentation of submitted papers (Geoinformation)
- SE11: Presentation of country reports (ICT)
- SE12: Presentation of Virtual Learning Academy (ICT)
- SE13: Presentation of the Study, “Regional Telecommunication Regulation” (ICT)
- SE14: African Statistical Association and African Journal of Statistics Project (Statistics)
- SE15: Information sharing (Statistics)

### **Exhibition - demonstrations and poster sessions**

- EX1: Exhibition



### Annex 3. List of observer institutions

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Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia; GEO-CAT, Ethiopia; UNEP, Ethiopia; African Union, Ethiopia; ECSC, Ethiopia; Department for Development Policy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland; African Telecommunications Unions (ATU), Kenya; UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Canada; Graduate School of Telecommunication and Information Technology, Ethiopia; Dashen Bank S.C., Ethiopia; Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, Ethiopia; National Bank of Ethiopia, Ethiopia; Midroc Plc., Ethiopia; ECSC, Ethiopia; African Virtual University, Ethiopia; Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE), Sénégal ; AFRISTAT, Mali; GEOCAT Consult, Ethiopia; ICT Africa Plc., Ethiopia; Embassy of Japan in Ethiopia, Ethiopia; Debre Zeit Agricultural Research Centre (DZARC), Ethiopia; Hamung University, Aseleh, Germany; Global Internet Studios, Ethiopia; International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Ethiopia; African Union, Ethiopia; CEA, France; Embassy of Canada, Ethiopia; International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Ethiopia; Roads Department, MORPW, Kenya; Alabama A & M University, USA; CSIR, South Africa; FAO, Ethiopia; MPC Enterprises, Ethiopia; Ethiopian Mine Action Office, Ethiopia; National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA), Nigeria; Ministère des Affaires Etrangères (Coopération et Francophonie), France; University College London, UK; ISPRS, UK; Small Enterprise Development Agency, South Africa; SEAMIC, United Republic of Tanzania; Matrix Technologies, Ethiopia; NeuroNet/MAPS Geosystems, Ethiopia; UNDP Representation to the AU/Liaison with ECA, Ethiopia; PARIS21 Secretariat, France; UNFPA/CST, Ethiopia; East African Community (EAC), United Republic of Tanzania; Survey of Kenya, Kenya; Global Internet Studios, Ethiopia; ITU, Ethiopia; Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce, Ethiopia; UNFPA/CST, Sénégal; ITC and Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI), USA; World Health Organization, Sudan; Mairie du 1er Arrondissement Commune de Port-Gentil, Gabon; Jeunes Médecins Sans Frontières, Tunisie; University of Zimbabwe/SADC/RRSU, Zimbabwe; Aseleh e.v., Germany; WFP, Ethiopia; University of Stellenbosch, South Africa; Eastern African Statistical Training Centre (EASTC), United Republic of Tanzania; UNICEF ESARO, Kenya; Makerere University, ISAE, Uganda; Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), Kenya; Government of Canada, Canada; Orchid Systems, Madagascar; Purdue University, Indiana, USA; International Cartographic Association - ICA, Sweden; Institute of Social Studies, The Netherlands; ACGD/EDF/RIFED, Togo; ICT4D Initiatives, Statistics Canada, Canada; Haut Commissariat au Plan, Maroc; SADC Secretariat, Botswana; REONET, Mali; JICA Study Team, Kokusai Kogyo Co. Ltd., Japan; Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Zambia, ; ABULL, Burkina Faso