Economic Commission for Africa

Report of the Third Meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI III)

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May 10-17, 2003
Economic Commission for Africa
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Introduction

The Third Meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI) on the theme "Information and Governance" was held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa, from 12 to 15 May 2003, with pre-meeting events from 10 to 11 May 2003 and post-meeting events from 16 to 17 May 2003. CODI is one of ECA's seven subsidiary bodies and was established in 1997 at the 23rd meeting of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning. As a subsidiary body of the Commission, CODI provides policy and technical guidance for the subprogramme "harnessing information for development". The Development Information Services Division (DISD) is responsible for implementing this sub-programme which covers the following areas: information and communication technologies; statistical development; database development and management; geoinformation and library; documentation and information service. The CODI III agenda is presented in Annex II.

Abbreviations and acronyms

List of Acronyms

AARSE	African Association of Remote Sensing for the Environment
ABSA	Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa
ACGD	African Centre for Gender and Development
ADB	African Development Bank
AFREF	African Geodetic Reference Frame
AFRISTAT	L'Observatoire Economique et Statistique d'Afrique Subsaharienne
AISD	African Information Society for Development
AISI	African Information Society Initiative
ASN	African Stakeholders Network
ATAC	African Technical Advisory Committee
AVLIN	African Virtual Library and Information Network
BCEAO	Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest
CCA	Connectivity Centre for Africa
CERSGIS	Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Services
CIC	Citizen Information Centre
CODI	Committee on Development Information
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DfID	Department for International Development
DISD	Development Information Services Division
DMD	Development Management Division
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EASTC	Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ESPD	Economic and Social Policy Division
FIG	International Federation of Surveyors
FOSSFA	Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa
GDDS	General Data Dissemination System
GIS	Geographic Information System
GKP	Global Knowledge Partnership
HAWKNet	Horn and East of Africa Regional Women's Knowledge Network
ICA	International Cartographic Association

ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IeDRN	International e-Development Resources Network
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INC	Institut National de Cartographie
ISCGM	International Steering Committee on Global Mapping
ISS	Information Systems Services
ITCA	Information Technology Centre for Africa
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MISA	Media Institute of Southern Africa
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NICI	National Information and Communication Infrastructure
NSOs	National Statistical Offices
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIF	Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie
PC-SDIAf	Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructures for Africa
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
SAPs	Structural Adjustment Programmes
SDI	Spatial Data Infrastructures
SEAMIC	Southern and Eastern African Mineral Centre
SNA	System of National Accounts
UCLAS	University College of Lands and Architectural Studies
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNFAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
UNWFP	United Nations World Food Programme
WOUGNET	Women of Uganda Network
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society

A. Plenary Sessions

Attendance

1. The meeting was attended by delegates from the following member States of the Commission: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

2. The meeting was also attended by numerous international, national, regional and subregional observer organizations and institutions. See Annex III for the full list of attendees.

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)

5. At the first plenary session, opening remarks were made by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Mr. K.Y Amoako. In his remarks, he noted that this was the third meeting under the theme of "Information and Governance". This theme was chosen because the prevailing discourse in Africa addresses governance. He underscored the need for adequate knowledge and information resources for decision-makers and the general public. He also outlined the efforts made by ECA to develop appropriate policies, National Information and Communication Infrastructure plans (NICI) and sectoral plans, focusing in particular on e-government for efficiency, transparency and accountability. He noted that the use of information and communication technology (ICT) by governments can bring both internal and external benefits. Internally, ICT provides benefits such as staff motivation, greater political control and an improved public image. Externally, ICT delivers cheaper, better services to those who depend on government. But introducing ICT in the governance process raises a number of critical questions. For instance, are countries ready for e-governance and e-government activities? Is the infrastructure for the data systems ready? What about the legal and institutional frameworks? Can the human and technological capacity support e-governance initiatives in each and every country? And above all, is there strategic thinking and leadership?

He urged participants to propose a Plan of Action that would respond to these critical questions and specific actions for ECA, for member States, for partners, private sector and civil society and wished participants a fruitful meeting.

6.   **Objectives of CODI III:** The Director of the Development Information Services Division (DISD), Ms. Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane, outlined the goals and objectives of CODI. She noted that this third meeting addressed specific sectors of development information, including information and communications technologies, statistics and geoinformation. On the theme of "Information and Governance", the objective of the meeting was to discuss and recommend strategies to the Commission and member States for harnessing information for good governance. CODI III was also meant to review the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of CODI II. The meeting was expected to increase understanding of governance issues and processes, identify information and knowledge requirements to face the most pressing governance challenges and propose strategies to put in place adequate information resources for the governance community.

7.   The meeting also reviewed the progress made by the Commission and member States towards implementing the recommendations of CODI-II. She also outlined the structure of the meeting.

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

8.   The outgoing Chairperson informed the meeting that the heads of delegations had met earlier and elected the bureau for CODI III as follows:

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

9.   The meeting approved the elected bureau and adopted the agenda and organization of work proposed by the secretariat. There were no amendments. The agenda is attached as Annex II.

Key introductory panel: "Information and Governance" (agenda item 3)

10.   Under this agenda item, Prof. Mohammed Salih made a presentation entitled "Governance, Information and the Public Sphere". He introduced the main factors behind the current debate on governance and its relevance to the African content and highlighted Africa's recent achievements in improving its political governance image and the difficulties the continent is experiencing in improving its economic governance image. He indicated that recent Transparency International

reports reveal that the African continent as a whole is far less corrupt than some of its transition economies trade and investment competitors. He noted that such relatively positive reports challenge the norm and pose the question as to whether framing the good governance debate on trust building between government and citizens based on better access to information, transparency and accountability would yield better results than divulging an image of a corrupt continent.

He elaborated on the role information and ICT play in the governance debate and outlined four established issues: public financial management; private sector governance; decentralization; and civil society participation and empowerment.

11. Mr. J. Habib Sy gave a presentation on "Critical and Perspective Views on ICTs, Governance and People in Africa". He raised several questions, including whether African States are capable of promoting accountable and transparent governance. He also discussed the extent to which electronic governance should be preconditioned by democracy as well as the linkages between competitive governance and people-centred ICT utilization. In the context of globalization, he wondered whether ICTs can be the principal driving force to social and economic progress. He linked this idea to the extent to which development processes are driven by the struggle for democracy or by market forces and considered whether, in the "information age" paradigm, ICTs are the driving force behind capitalist accumulation. He also provided an analysis on how accountable and efficient the main information and communications projects, programmes and strategies launched in Africa have been in the past decade.

12. Two panel responses to the keynote speech were made by Mr. Andre Bassole and by Mr. John Githongo. The responses provided perspectives on statistics and geoinformation.

13. In the discussions that followed, participants emphasized the following points:

- There is a need for consensus on a common definition of good governance, which should include key issues such as required involvement of communities and citizens as well as decentralization and empowerment strategies, aimed at achieving transparency and participatory democracy. Central to these strategies is the need to make government information available to traditional authorities and the availability of a geodata policy and geodata at the local and national levels;
- Weak infrastructure and institutional capacities, as well as fragmented educational and training efforts, are the result of inadequate human resources;
- Although ICT is a principal driving force for social and economic progress, the awareness of its potential is dismal and is related to a number of constraining factors, such as illiteracy, internal digital divide, restrictive regulatory frameworks, poverty, poor infrastructure and lack of accountability and transparency in governance structures. Further, unless telecommunications infrastructure is improved, advances in areas such as e-governance will not have a bright future in Africa;

- Chronic financial crisis, coupled with economic liberalization and market forces, hinder the State's capacity to manage financial resources;
- Public financial management and accountability have been heavily compromised throughout Africa due to globalization and the effect it has on a State's ability to govern society and manage the economy.
- Privatization is not the remedy for telecommunication overhaul and restructuring; and
- Access to reliable and up-to-date information is necessary for good governance and improvements in infrastructure will help to provide information for private and public finance accountability, private sector governance and civil society participation at little cost.

14.   Participants recommended as follows:
- There is a need to enhance citizens' right to information;
- There should be indexing of variables and comparison among countries;
- Geoinformation initiatives will require private-public partnerships;
- Countries should advance the use of information to promote self-governing; and
- Accountability structures need to be improved.

Decentralization, community empowerment and the role of civil society (agenda item 4)

15.   In his presentation on "GI in support of decentralization and community empowerment", Mr. Mansberger pointed to the support geoinformation (GI) could provide in promoting decentralization and community empowerment. He discussed selected issues of spatial information management, namely the end-users of geoinformation, the required data for (land-related) decision processes, the new possibilities in the acquisition and distribution of geodata. He also outlined several requirements and recommendations that would guarantee essential support of geoinformation for decentralization and community empowerment.

16.   Mr. Assefa Admassie gave a second presentation entitled "ICTs for effective decentralization: first outcome of the pilot *Woreda* studies in Ethiopia", in which he highlighted the results of a study on ICTs and decentralization in Ethiopia. Recognizing the shortcomings of a centralized form of public administration, the Government of Ethiopia has embarked on an ambitious plan of decentralization that accords an important role to *Woredas* (districts) in their planning and decision-making processes.

The study focused on determining the information and communication needs of public institutions such as health, agriculture, education at Woreda level. It also investigated the information and

communication flows between communities and public institutions and made suggestions on the type of information and technological applications needed to create a positive impact on social and economic development in each *Woreda*. The recommendations that emerged from the study include:

- The need for human resource capacity development;
- The need for a new system of administration and management;
- The need to identify and apply appropriate ICTs and information systems at community level and in community radio stations;
- The need to plan and implement appropriate ICT applications;
- The need to improve and develop ICT infrastructure;
- The need to promote the growth of Ethiopia's hardware and software industry; and
- The need to develop public-private partnerships for joint research.

17. In her presentation entitled "ICTs in support of traditional governance: A case study of Chieftaincy, Governance and Development in Ghana", Ms. Irene Odotei focused on the need to build the capacity and skills of key traditional governance actors to use ICTs within the chieftaincy institution. Her presentation touched on record keeping, management, accessibility and appropriate coding, packaging and dissemination of indigenous knowledge. It also addressed the need for networking and connectivity for monitoring and sharing experiences, information, knowledge and expertise.

She pointed out that as traditional knowledge is based on oral transmission, personal observation and experience, there are always opportunities for arguments and disputes that could lead to litigation, armed conflict and in some cases death. ICTs could help systemize records and thus reduce the intensity of conflicts.

18. Mr. François Paul Yatta spoke on *"Le programme ECOLOC"* (The ECOLOC programme) that contributes to the decentralization of socio-economic information. He argued that the establishment of tables on economic indicators at the level of local communities was not merely beneficial to decentralization processes. They held significance at the national level.

19. Participants addressed the following key issues:

- Although the need to integrate traditional authority in democratization processes is necessary, the lack of clear codes, standards and indicators, as well as the lack of community empowerment and participation, inhibits good governance at the local, national, subregional and continental levels and makes it difficult to define good governance in depth. Statistics on ICTs and geoinformation are key tools for achieving good governance.

- There is a mismatch between improving political governance and worsening socio-economic conditions for the majority of Africans. Good governance should be seen as critical to managing national resources for sustainable development.
- Rapid growth and development cannot be achieved without decentralization, effective information flow, transparency, proper management and accountability. Record keeping, packaging and dissemination of indigenous knowledge need to be integrated into good governance structures.
- The presenter of the Ethiopian pilot study clarified that the research was conducted in four *Woredas* that were selected from Addis Ababa, Oromiya and Benshangul-Gumuz regional states. The selected *Woredas* were then grouped into three strata: rural, semi-urban and urban. Some of the government institutions that were visited for the study include administration, finance, health, agriculture, education offices and police stations. He added that the presentation was only a summary that focused on general objectives, methodologies and problems observed in the course of the study.
- Comments were made with regard to Ghana's dual system of authority, which comprises both western and traditional forms. Participants observed that the chieftaincy institution is protected by Ghana's modern constitution. The chieftaincy project aims to advance and promote research and scholarship and is premised on the fact that chieftaincy is one of Ghana's most enduring cultural heritage institutions.

20.   The following actions were recommended:

- There is a need to develop codes, standards and indicators of good governance at the local, national, subregional and continental levels based on a bottom-up, participatory and multidisciplinary process;
- There is a need to build capacity on the use of ICT to increase the necessary capacities within the chieftaincy institution, as this would enable stakeholders of traditional governance to fit into Ghana's modern governance system; and
- Networking and connectivity are needed for monitoring and sharing experiences, information, knowledge and expertise.

Facilitating transparent public financial management and accountability (agenda item 5)

21.   In his presentation entitled "Projet 'IDEAL' d'interconnexion et de développement de l'administration en ligne", Mr. Momar Aly Ndiaye highlighted the need to provide government administrative offices with efficient information systems. Applications for telephony, e-mail, management of contracts and scheduling would enable administrative staff to network and

improve their organizational capacity while considerably reducing telecommunications costs. Other strategies would include sharing of inter-ministerial files and production of computerized performance indicators for follow-up to government activities. He noted that phase I of the IDEAL Project will provide a gradual interconnection and development of online administration as follows:

- In the first year, the project will be housed in the cabinet offices of the ministries, the office of the president, the prime minister and the national assembly;
- The network infrastructure and servers will be boosted in each ministry;
- The ministerial departments will be interconnected through telecommunication infrastructure which will form the backbone of the Intranet;
- Cross-cutting applications will be deployed through the government Intranet to provide basic services such as telephony, e-mail and web browsing; and
- A consultative framework will be put in place, which will involve the project steering committee and bring together major NICI players in the administration.

He also highlighted the following aspects that helped to shape the design and implementation of the various Intranet components:

- Intranet services and applications would be easy to use and manage; and
- The technology chosen would be flexible and meet the specific needs of civil service administrative units.

22.   Mr. K.M Baharul Islam gave a presentation entitled "Information Age Government: Success Stories of Online Land Records and Revenue Governance from India". He focused on three examples:

a) Karnataka: *Bhooomi* (Land). The Department of Revenue in Karnataka has computerized 20 million records of land ownership of 6.7 million farmers in the state. In the next phase, the records will be available online at the village level through rural Internet kiosks. It has been reported by the land record officials that there has been a 50 per cent increase in the number of mutation requests registered with the department. This increase seems to indicate a mass acceptance of the new system.

b) Himachal Pradesh: *Lokmitra* (People's Friend). Previously, any person who wanted to have their land demarcated had to apply to revenue officials and that process used to take months and often years. At present, a person can go to the nearest Citizen Information Centre (CIC) and lodge complaints or request for land demarcation by paying a small fee of Rs10 ($US0.2). The Government is now planning to broaden the scope of the *Lokmitra* programme to include employment generation for the rural youth, expediting rural development and redressing complaints of the rural population.

c) Haryana Rewari District. The computerization of land records in Rewari was initiated from 1990 to 1991 as a pilot project with an initial cost of only Rs2.15 million ($45,000), in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre. The 412 compilations of land records (*Jamabandies*) in the three subdivisions are now computerized. Computerization centres exist at all the three subdivisional (*Tehsil*) offices and copies of land records are being issued to the public on demand by the clerk and revenue accountant in charge of the centres.

Lessons learned and challenges faced:
- Due to erroneous land records kept by village revenue officials, data entry was a problem. In the pilot project the data entry was done by private agencies;
- Information seminars and consultative meetings were held with the field officials and it was emphasized that they would continue to be responsible for field enquiries;
- Key political executives were involved in the project, demonstrating a strong political will for computerization;
- The monitoring mechanism is crucial to the success of the scheme; this needs to be strengthened;
- There is a need to spread more awareness about the implementation of the scheme among partners in development planning;
- Digitization of cadastral survey maps should be done; and
- There is a need for networking of the scheme at different levels so that data moves from district to state and then to the centres through NICNET.

23.   Mr. Raul Suarez presented on "Statistics and indicators in the field of human rights and governance: the METAGORA programme". Methods and tools for assessing governance through reporting and analysis (METAGORA) is a two-year pilot project running from 2003 to 2005. It aims to develop and test statistical methods, tools and indicators to assess human rights and governance in their various dimensions, including accountability, distributive development and participatory democracy. It intends to gather the expertise of leading organizations and individuals from North and South and to build on multidisciplinary approaches and methods of work that allow progress in developing indicators and matching quantitative and qualitative analysis for policy-oriented reporting. Concrete outcomes of the project include:

- A report on the relevance and consistency of a few targeted governance indicators and analysis developed and tested within the field operations;
- An outline manual on applied measurements for assessing human rights and governance;
- An online repository of current work and initiatives in these field; and
- An analytical report on the concepts and operational relevance of this work.

24.   Mr. Khaled Marzouk gave a second presentation entitled "ICTs in support of public financial management: the case of Tunisia". He focused on existing elements of governance and ICT use in the Ministry of Finance in Tunisia that are based on a phased-out approach to implementing ICTs and comprise of policy commitment, proper cost estimates, validation steps, cautious initiation and implementation, and project management. Other aspects include the following:

- Operating systems:
  - RAFIC - that streamlines taxation and accounting operations. RAFIC has been active since 1987 and centralized since 1993;
  - SINDA 2000 – a customs information system;
  - ADEB 2000 – a budget decision-making tool;
  - SIADE – an external debt management system;
  - TGT – National Treasury of Tunisia.
- New operating systems
  - SADEC – fiscal control system assistant;
  - AMED – budget preparation assistant;
  - GEDE – electronic archiving and management, online tax return filing, *dématérialisation*, improvement of report quality and batch processing.

  In addition to consolidating and securing information systems, guidelines were put in place for future projects. Additional elements that were put in place include:
  - Developing the concept of community administration;
  - Adoption of open source software;
  - Finalizing the capacity-building process in the administration (Arabization of all the systems);
  - Completion of the national finance network.

In the process of integrating new systems with the existing ones, the speaker added that the interconnection difficulties were overcome and the life span of each software programme became renewable.

25.   Participants agreed that lack of standardized procedures and manuals, shortage of skilled human resources, poor data acquisition and storage, shortage of ICT facilities and inadequate public-private partnerships needed to be addressed. It was also noted that there is a need to develop human resource capacity and both short and long-term training on information and information management.

Involving the private sector (agenda item 6)

26. Four presentations were made:
    - "Public-private partnership in GI development: Opportunities and challenges";
    - "E-Aligning Africa – working with the private sector to implement innovative e-government solutions to address Africa's development";
    - "Le role du secteur privé: privé-public: un mariage de raison" and
    - "Bonne gouvernance et information statistique: un défi pour le secteur privé".

In his presentation entitled "Public-private partnership in GI development: opportunities & challenges", Mr. Samuel Aboa gave a detailed presentation on public-private partnership (PPP) and elaborated on the history and benefits. He also provided case studies and noted that transparency, political leadership and communication with all stakeholders as well as public sector involvement are key to successful PPP. Other issues raised by the presentation included the collaborative and process-oriented nature of PPP and as well as PPP and geoinformation opportunities and success stories.

In her presentation "E-Aligning Africa – working with the private sector to implement innovative e-government solutions to address Africa's development goals", Ms. Otema Yrienki defined e-alignment by stating that it is a word that illustrates the need for a collaborative & framework-based approach to the design and implementation of e-government solutions. She also highlighted Africa's place in the e-government continuum, e-government solutions applicable to Africa, key questions and success factors in implementing e-government applications.

Mr. Kamel Labidi presented a paper entitled "Public-private union for convenience". The presentation included a definition of good governance and elaborated on why the public-private sector relationship was a union for convenience. He also noted the dilemma that private-public sector partnerships present for decision-makers, in particular human resources, financial resources and technology risk.

The presentation entitled "Good governance and statistical information: the role of the private sector" highlighted the importance of good governance for official statistics and the quality of financial information produced by enterprises.

The ensuing discussions made the following recommendations:

- There was an increase in the number of participants from the private sector in the successive CODI meetings and efforts should be made to increase the participation of the private sector during CODI IV;

- There is a need establish a framework for public-private partnership (PPP) in Africa;
- The private sector should be given a role in statistical production and should implement cost-recovery operations in its engagement with public enterprises;
- There is a need for planning of governance activities and running the public sector as a business in order to make it competitive;
- African institutions need to be strengthened, particularly in areas such as the revitalization of national archives;
- Access to institutional data needs standardizing through independent commissions;
- There is a need to overhaul existing private-public sector partnerships on ICTs.

B. Subcommittee Sessions

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

Attendance

27.   The meeting of the Subcommittee on Information and Communication Technologies and Library was attended by delegates and observers from in and out of the continent of Africa.

28.   The Subcommittee on ICT and Library met from 12 to 15 May 2003. Meetings of the African Stakeholders Network (ASN), United Nations ICT Task Force, African Virtual Library and Information Network (AVLIN) Advisory Committee, and workshops on technical aspects of building digital libraries and information networks and open source for improved public administration in Africa were held from 10 to 11 May 2003. A media forum on information society was held from 16 to 17 May 2003. The reports of these workshops are available at the ECA website (http://www.uneca.org/aisi).

Opening (agenda item 7.1)

29.   After the outgoing Chairperson called the meeting to order, the Director of ECA's Development Information Services Division (DISD) made an opening statement, followed by the Chairperson.

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

30.   The outgoing Chairperson from Malawi opened the meeting and held an election session of officers for the new bureau. The following elections were made:

- Chair: Rwanda
- Vice-Chair: Zambia
- Rapporteur: Mauritania

31.   The session adopted the agenda and programme of work.

Report of activities (agenda item 7.3)

32.   A series of presentations were made on progress made in various areas since CODI II. The session closed after a question and answer session.

Report on recommendations from CODI II (agenda 7.3.1)

33.   The document entitled "Report on the follow-up activities of CODI II recommendations" highlighted ECA's activities in response to the recommendations made during CODI II. The activities focused on three areas: capacity-building in modern geoinformation resources management and applications (in particular NSDIs); policy advocacy for geo-spatial information; and developing an in-house facility that would make possible the search and discovery of spatial data collections on Africa for use by all researchers and decision-makers. The facility would provide member States with the means to publicize their spatial data holdings. The presentation noted that ECA has fortified its partnership and networking with international, regional and national initiatives and institutions involved in the advancement of GI in Africa. Modalities of implementation had been conducted through conferences, seminars and workshops, studies on policy and technical matters, information dissemination, advisory services and international cooperation and partnership.

Report of the African Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) on the implementation of AISI (agenda 7.3.2)

34.   After observing a moment of silence in memory of the late Professor Mamadou Gueye, former chair of ATAC II, a report on "The African Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) on the implementation of the AISI" was made. A proposal was made by the Secretariat on the possible

roles of ATAC members based on their areas of expertise. In addition to calling for the active participation of ATAC members in electronic discussions, meetings and other knowledge-sharing activities, the proposal focused on initiating a series called the African Information Society for Development (AISD). Suggested topics included policy and infrastructure, language, gender, civil society, media, education, health, private sector and Diaspora.

Members welcomed the suggestion to work online and discussed how they could address the challenge of the proposed thematic focus, based on the expertise of each ATAC member. Discussions focused on timelines, incentives and coordination. The following recommendations were proposed:

- Each member will coordinate specific thematic areas and all members will contribute to the production of the series;
- ECA owned the copyright to all materials generated out of the series.
- An action plan on implementing the proposal should be developed and each member would be expected to provide input to the process by the first week of December 2003. (Thandi Mbvundula agreed to coordinate this activity);
- An incentive package should be made available. Activities would be linked to the implementation of the International e-Development Resources Network (IeDRN) and the Connectivity Centre for Africa (CCA), which are proposed collaborations between ECA and the Canadian Government; and
- An incubator model should be developed as an essential component of the process (Otema Yirenkyi produced an outline).

Report on African Virtual Library and Information Network (AVLIN) (agenda item 7.3.3)

35.   A second document entitled "Progress report on African Virtual Library and Information Network (AVLIN)" was received. AVLIN is a programme designed to sharpen ECA's harnessing information for development activities in Africa. Its core activities are knowledge and information networking, sharing and exchanges. It is designed to be:

- A network of Internet-based information and knowledge resources and services;
- A web of virtual libraries and knowledge exchanges relevant to African development issues;
- A "gateway of gateways" for information sources on special development concerns for which ECA has a regional mandate and for which it provides advocacy to its member States; and
- A platform and hub for the exchange of knowledge and information among researchers and policy-makers.

The future development of AVLIN will depend on support from development organizations and active collaboration from participating institutions. Participating institutions should have the appropriate capacities in terms of institutional commitment, human resources, equipment, and other physical resources in order to contribute and benefit from AVLIN. For the coming three years, AVLIN activities will focus on:

- Building information and knowledge resources;
- Capacity-building;
- Advocacy among libraries; and
- Fundraising and sustainability issues.

36.   The meeting received the "Bamako 2002 Declaration", which is the culmination of four workshops and consultations held during the pre-Bamako conference activities. On the basis of the outcome of the workshops and plenary discussions, the Africa Regional Conference adopted the declaration.

Report of African Stakeholders Network (agenda item 7.3.4)

37.   Other presentations received included "A Report of African Stakeholders Network (ASN)". ASN aims to optimize the frameworks for partnership and resource-sharing with the existing networks in the continent working on ICTs for development and to draw on the experiences of regional and international institutions. At the national level, ASN will work towards ICT capacity-building for development issues among governments, policy-makers, civil society, private sector and ICT professionals. It will also serve to mobilize actors to address gaps and constraints in policy and strategies in the work of the United Nations ICT Task Force and the implementation of its plan of action.

38.   Participants discussed the presentations and recommended the following actions:

- There is a need for written recommendations to the Bamako Bureau on Africa's preparation in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process in general and participation of women and CSOs in particular;
- There is a need to address African oral tradition by addressing language, local content and indigenous knowledge issues given the wealth of untapped information among African communities, particularly in the context of the AVLIN project;
- The status of national consultations on ICT strategies should be reviewed and linked to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and WSIS processes;
- The status of ICT indicators in the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals should be reviewed.

- Operational modalities for using ATAC, AVLIN and CSOs for providing assistance to member States should be examined;
- Performance indicators for the implementation of AISI need to be developed;
- There should be a balanced participation of civil society in AISI initiatives at national, regional and subregional levels;
- There is a need to build and strengthen infrastructure to improve access and institutional capacity;
- Promotion of geoinformation systems is important; and
- There is a need to establish reliable and comprehensive African databases on ICT related issues.

ICTs in support of governance: opportunities and challenges (agenda item 7.4)

39.   Discussions on challenges and issues arising from the keynote speech and panel discussion on "Information and Governance" yielded the following recommended actions:

- African countries should adopt free open source software as an important tool in promoting ICT and good governance;
- There is a need for participation of all stakeholders in formulation, development and implementation of ICT strategies and plans and this represents a good governance mechanism in itself;
- ECA should promote dialogue among civil society organizations, governments, international organizations and the private sector on national ICT strategies and plans and ensure the participation of all stakeholders;
- E-governance needs to be promoted at the macroeconomic and social levels;
- The consistent use of information systems for decision-making purposes and the decentralization of services and resources is needed;
- Special funds for competitive educational systems that support ICTs and governance should be created;
- A serious evaluation of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) and their impact on economic performance, armed conflicts and weak ICT infrastructure is needed; and
- There is a need to redefine capacity-building to include the participation of women.

GKP Africa Day (agenda item 7.5)

Opening (agenda item 7.5.1)

40.   In collaboration with the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) secretariat, GKP Africa Day presented various ICT initiatives and activities in the area of governance. Before closing each session general discussions on the presentations were held. The meeting received the following documents:

- Summary of the AISI electronic discussion on ICT and governance;
- "Preliminary reflection to launch an African Action Plan on E-governance";
- "E-strategies in Africa: National, Sectoral and Regional ICT Policies, Plans and Strategies";
- "Genre et gouvernance des processus de TIC, Dakar, Sénégal", by Marie-Helene Mottin Sylla;
- "E-Pol-Net: Digital Opportunities for Africa", by Raymond Lepage & Richard Bourassa; and
- "Report on Indicators of Information and Communications Technologies and the Impact of Information and Communication Technology at the Country Level".

41.   Presentations included: GKP multimedia presentation: "ICT for development platform"; "Lessons learned from Asia"; presentations on selected NICI countries; and "Outcome of the Study on Telecommunication Policy and Regulation in Africa", by Gaston Zongo.

42.   The following is a summary of the presentations.

The GKP ICT for development platform focuses on the demand-side (governments, civil society, private sector, development actors); and on the supply side (development agencies, international organizations, funding and financial agencies).

"Lessons learned from Asia" highlighted the work done in public sector reform by UNDP's ICT and governance programme. Some of the challenges faced in this work include political consensus, readiness of community to accept changes, their responsiveness and inclusiveness. Poor infrastructure is another challenge.

ICT and governance (agenda item 7.5.3)

A second presentation looked at ICT and governance in countries that are implementing National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) and highlighted the Government of

Malawi's wide area network and the role ICTs are playing in improving financial management. The Gambia's pipeline project to develop an AISI model of e-governance is geared to increase citizen empowerment and participation and enhance the use of ICTs for governance.

Participants were requested to discuss the document entitled "Preliminary reflections to launch an African Action Plan on E-governance" and provide input to the Bamako 2002 bureau so as to enrich the draft action plan. The deadline for contributing to the bureau was set at 31 May 2003.

ECA made a progress report on the implementation of National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI). The report focused on national, sectoral and regional strategies, process, results, lessons learned, partnership and the way forward. Selected NICI countries were highlighted as follows:

- **Burund**i's national strategy, awareness, opportunities, challenges and lessons learned;
- **Ghana's** rationale for national strategy, situational analysis, framework, policy, plan, expectations and implementation;
- **Namibia's** baseline study and policy, which were submitted to the parliament;
- **Central Africa's** infrastructure, regional ICT initiatives and implementation of NICI; and
- **Senegal's** gender, governance and ICT issues and, in particular, ICT awareness for rural women.

  In his presentation entitled "Outcome of the study on telecommunication policy and regulation in Africa" Mr. Zongo presented the objectives, context and findings of the study. He highlighted the lack of independent regulators, lack of skilled human resources, licensing concerns and the need for consumer interest protection. Other presentations included "E-Pol-Net as a unique partnership model and national SCAN-ICT baseline studies".

43.   Actions recommended:

- GKP should address the use of radio for information dissemination, which is widely used in Africa by civil society to reach the grassroots;
- African countries should not only be consumers of ICTs but producers;
- There is a need to strengthen strategies to use ICT as an enabler of socio-economic development and as a sector to create job opportunities and contribute to development of the overall economy;
- ICTs alone cannot deliver, but combined with critical success factors, ICTs can make the desired impact on development;
- There is a need for sensitizing governments on emerging trends in ICTs;
- There is a need to build the capacity of women in high-level decision making;

- Local languages should be promoted on the Internet;
- There is a need to link NICIs with telecommunication regulatory frameworks in Africa;
- Member States must ensure the independence of regulators and support harmonization of regulatory regimes;
- ECA should publize the E-Pol-Net initiative to stakeholders in Africa;
- ECA should work on gender mainstreaming and develop indicators for gender-desegregated ICT data;
- The SCAN-ICT project should be expanded to include other African countries; and
- There is a need to review ICT indicators in the light of the Millennium Development Goals and explicitly address Millennium Development Goals in the NICI development process.

Information and knowledge development (agenda item 7.5.4)

44.   Documents Received:

- "The value of library services in development" (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/16);
- "The Information Technology Centre for Africa" (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/26);
- "Report on ECA activities in the area of information and communication technologies, information systems and libraries in 2002-2003 and work programme for the biennium 2004-2005" (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/4).

"The value of library services in development" and "Report on ECA activities in ICT and Library for 2002-2003 and work programme for the biennium 2004-2005" were received at this session including an update on the AVLIN project. Key issues arising from this session include:

- The need to form a network that connects developing and developed countries and ensures the development of information services that support equity policies and the improvement of quality of life of all people;
- Libraries act as gateways to knowledge and culture, by providing access to information, ideas and works of imagination in various formats;
- Libraries should provide essential support for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development for all;
- Libraries help people improve educational and social skills that are indispensable in an information society and for sustained participation in democracy;
- Libraries further reading habits and information literacy;
- Libraries contribute to the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom

by providing unbiased access to information;

- Libraries are helping to tackle information inequality demonstrated in the growing information gap and the digital divide; and
- Libraries use their network of services to provide information with which research and innovation are executed to advance sustainable development and the welfare of people worldwide.

45. Recommendations made:

- Recommendations made by participants attending the open source software workshop should be integrated in the national development programmes of member States and ECA should use its convening power for this purpose;
- ECA's subregional offices should be more involved in the NICI development process of countries that they are serving;
- In view of the identifiable significant primary role of the library for the expert collation, organization and dissemination of knowledge, especially in the new ICTs environment, libraries should be considered as necessary components of e-governance in Africa;
- ECA should develop projects focusing on developing infrastructure and human skills, including digital capacities of African libraries;
- ECA should commission a study on liberalization and regulation of ICTs in Africa;
- Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA) should undertake activities to publicize NEPAD, as an overall framework of African Development;
- Recommendations adopted during the preparatory meeting to the WSIS organized by the Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie (OIF) on "Women and the information society ", April 2003, should be implemented, particularly those dealing with democracy, good governance and peace. ECA, which participated at this meeting, should provide support for its member States in their efforts to mainstream gender issues in ICT policies and plans and e-governance-related applications;
- ECA, with the support of AVLIN, should strengthen its capacity-building activities for African librarians in their use of ICTs;
- ECA should ensure that local content that uses local languages and oral tradition should be taken into account in its activities aimed at developing information and knowledge resources;
- ECA should take African youth into account as one of its key target groups among its activities and ensure that they are the recipients of traditional and indigenous knowledge;
- ECA, with the support of its member States, should develop Africa-wide sectoral

portals reflecting African values and information needs;

- Recommendations from the open source workshop organized by the Economic Commission for Africa and the Agence Intergouvernemnetale de la francophonie, 10–11 May 2003 should be annexed to the CODI III recommendations and special focus should be given to:
    - The adoption of legal and regulatory measures promoting the use of open source software in public administration in Africa;
    - The establishment of a North-South and South-South partnership model based on mutual benefits for the deployment of a software industry in Africa;
    - An inter-African collaboration and networking mechanism should be set up to promote open source software and establish a portal on success stories;
    - Civil society should sensitize and organize awareness activities on the need to create associations promoting the use of open source network and organize capacity-building programmes on open source software utilization before the second phase of the World Summit on Information Society;
- Governments should play a key role in promoting open source software by:
    - Introducing appropriate policies and legislation;
    - Stimulating the local software industry; and
    - Lowering entry barriers for various kinds of new businesses into the IT industry.
- The Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA) should work with all stakeholders to ensure that open source is available as an affordable platform to engineer solutions that meet the needs of Africans.
- African governments should support FOSSFA to promote Africa as a hub for open source software development;
- ECA, with the support of the African Stakeholders Network (ASN), E-Pol-Net and AVLIN, must work in partnership with existing regional knowledge networks such as the Horn and East of Africa Regional Women's Knowledge Network (HAWKNet) and Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) to strengthen regional information and knowledge portals by and for African women and youth;
- African youth must be empowered and involved in the processes that seek to establish Africa as a major partner in the information society; and
- Existing youth-led efforts and initiatives should be identified and encouraged in order to bridge the generation divide.

Any other business (agenda item 7.6)

There was no other business.

Adoption of the report and closing (agenda item 7.7)

46.   The Subcommittee adopted its report and submitted it to the plenary session of CODI.

47.   The Chairperson then made some observations about the meeting and its achievements and called on the Chief of DISD to make closing remarks. The Chairperson closed the meeting.

Subcommittee on Statistics (agenda item 8)

Attendance

48.   The session of the Subcommittee on Statistics of the Third Meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI III) was held at ECA from 12 to 15 May 2003, with a pre-CODI Working Group on "Statistics and Governance" convened on 11 May 2003 and a post-CODI meeting devoted to the formal launching of the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA) on 16 May 2003.

49.   The meeting of the Subcommittee on Statistics was attended by delegates from the following member States of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.

50.   The meeting was also attended by observers from the following organizations: African Development Bank (ADB); Observatoire Statistique et Economique d'Afrique Sub-Saharienne (AFRISTAT); Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (BCEAO); Book Jang (Senegal); CERSGIS (Ghana); Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); Department for International Development (DfID, UK); Development Insertion International (DIAL); Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre in Dar-es-Salaam (EASTC); Ecole Nationale d'Economie Appliquée de Dakar (ENEA); Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée d'Abidjan (ENSEA); Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Office for Africa; International Monetary Fund (IMF); International Labour Organization (ILO); Switzerland; InWent Munich Centre for Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics; Organization for Economic Cooperation

and Development (OECD/PARIS21); Oxford Policy Management (UK); Partenariat pour le Développement Municipal (PDM); Swiss Federal Statistical Office; US Bureau of census; United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD); University of Ghana; the World Bank.

Opening (agenda item 8.1)

51.   The outgoing Chairperson (Morocco) called the meeting to order and invited the Director of the Economic and Social Policy Division (ESPD) to make an opening statement.

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

52.   The Subcommittee elected the following bureau:

- Chair: Senegal;
- Vice-Chair: Zambia;
- Rapporteur: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

53.   The meeting adopted the draft agenda and programme of work without amendments.

Statistics and governance (agenda item 8.3)

54.   Issues raised

- The meeting called for a clear definition of the concept of governance, the variables it implies, the related domains, methodologies for measuring good governance and their applications;
- There is a need to prioritize the different subjects related to governance including statistics for good governance of national statistical offices (NSOs);
- Delegates considered the way in which NSOs can play a role without losing their credibility, including the role statisticians and NSOs can play in the different domains/sectors of good governance and the value-added role of statistics in measuring governance. In particular, discussion focused on the comparative advantage of NSOs and other components of the national statistical system in measuring governance;
- There is a need to identify variables relating to governance and the methodology to measure them, as well as the type of statistical data on governance to make available to decision-makers and the general public;

- It is important to have a clear distinction between statistics (which is a technical process) and politics;
- The risk of having indicators computed by non-statistical institutions or non-statisticians should be addressed;
- There is a need to understand the legal framework for NSOs involvement in the measurement of governance;
- Confidentiality and prevention against the use of statistical data for repressive (fiscal) ends should be noted;
- Statistics for the African peer review mechanism need to be developed as well as the applicability of the African peer review mechanism for national statistical systems; and
- There is a need for ownership, accountability and participatory and multidisciplinary processes.

55. Actions recommended.

- Measurement procedures must deal with both positive and negative aspects of governance;
- Statisticians should carefully review the Declaration of African Heads of States and Government and refer to it as a legal framework in developing indicators on governance at the national and regional levels;
- A working group on peer review mechanisms should be established to assess statistical capacity and to deal with conceptual and methodological issues pertaining to the development of indicators on governance, as well as the identification of comparative advantages of NSOs and other components of national statistical systems;
- National statistical systems should be strengthened by allocating adequate financial, human and material resources to the various components involved in the collection and compilation of statistics and indicators on governance. NSOs should play a key role in this process;
- ECA should assist in the establishment, at the country level, of the legal framework needed to ensure proper coordination of the activities of the various entities dealing with governance issues;
- Should the need arise, existing statistical regulations should be revised in order to take into account emerging data needs, including those pertaining to governance; and
- Member States should adopt a process for assessing their statistical capacity. Initially, volunteer countries should undertake to test and adopt tools and processes for the peer review of statistical capacity as part of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) commitment supported by an expert group provided by ECA and PARIS21.

56. Other discussion points

- The meeting also received a presentation on "Statistics and indicators in the field of Human Rights and Governance: the METAGORA programme", which was a continuation of the plenary session on the subject.

Country reports (agenda item 8.4)

57. Documents received:

- Country reports: Benin, Burundi, Comoros, Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Rwanda, Zambia.

58. Actions recommended

- Country reports should be prepared and forwarded to ECA well in advance and the Subcommittee, so as to enable a fruitful exchange of experiences among the NSOs and to devote sufficient time for review;
- ECA should work out a standard format on the basis of the outline adopted by the Subcommittee at its second session. This format should be tailored to the concerns, themes and agenda of future sessions of CODI;
- Country reports may be supplemented by country profiles;
- ECA should synthesize the country reports and selected countries could be invited to make presentations on good country practices;
- Other components of the national statistical system, such as central banks and sectoral agencies should be included in the reporting process;
- Statistical training centres should also report on their activities during future sessions of the Subcommittee; and
- Country reports should be posted on the web sites of the NSOs in countries where such dissemination facilities exist.

Follow-up to the conclusions and recommendations of the second meeting of the CODI II Subcommittee on Statistics (agenda item 8.5)

59. Documents received:

- "Follow-up to the conclusions and recommendations of the second meeting of the Subcommittee on Statistics of CODI II" (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/31).

60.   Issues raised

The meeting raised the need for follow-up to the evaluation of Addis Ababa Plan of Action for the Development of Statistics in Africa during the 1990s. It also discussed implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA), the use of statistical databases and information systems for decision-making, ECA's statistical activities and conclusions and recommendations of the working group on statistical capacity building for monitoring poverty in Africa.

61.   Actions taken

- The Subcommittee took note of the report and adopted it.

The 1993 System of National Accounts in Africa (agenda item 8.6)

62.   Documents received:

- The status of SNA 1993 implementation.

63.   Issues raised

- It was noted that human resource constraints at ECA secretariat prevented the Commission from carrying out an in-depth assessment of the implementation of the 1993 SNA.
- An overview of the activities of AFRISTAT and ECOWAS in the area of national accounts, harmonization of methodologies, data quality, timeliness and comparability and compliance with international dissemination standards was highlighted.

64.   Actions recommended

- An implementation strategy should be adopted at the country level;
- African governments should provide adequate financial and human resources to NSOs; and
- Specialized training programmes should be encouraged.

Policy issues (agenda item 8.7)

The establishment of the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA) (agenda item 8.7.1)

65.   A paper entitled "Draft Terms of Reference, Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA)" was received.

66.   The session raised the issue of representation on ABSA, its terms of reference and membership of the Board.

67.   Actions recommended:

- The board would be launched soon after CODI III; and
- In view of the growing demand for statistics, ABSA would be expected to work out a strategy on accelerating statistical development in Africa.

Report of the Working Group on Statistics and Governance (agenda item 8.7.2)

The following is a summary of the sessions on statistics and governance.

The following papers were presented:

- Peer review: "A tool for cooperation and challenge", by Mr. Fabricio Pagani, Paris 21;
- "Evaluation des statistiques en tant qu'élément de bonne gouvernance, la revue par les pairs à l'OCDE", by Mr. Gerard Chenais, Paris 21 ;
- "Evaluation des statistiques en tant qu'élément de bonne gouvernance, la revue par les pairs : Quelques principes de mise en œuvre", by Mr. Gerard Chenais, Paris 21;
- "Evaluation des statistiques en tant qu'élément de bonne gouvernance, la revue par les pairs : Un instrument de coopération et de changement", by Mr. Fabricio Pagani, Paris 21; and
- "Statistical information and governance, a challenge for the private sector", ECA.

68.   The meeting noted the importance of involving NSOs in the electoral process at country level and recommended that NSOs should play a more efficient role in the electoral process by providing government departments in charge of elections with all the statistical data needed to ensure the smooth organization of this process without violating confidentiality principles.

69.   The subcommittee adopted the draft report with amendments.

Regional and subregional initiatives for statistical development in Africa (agenda 8.8)

Papers presented:

- "Le role de banque centrale des états de l'Afrique de l'ouest dans le système statistique des pays de l'union monétaire ouest africaine", by Mr. Gerard Chenais, Paris 21 ;
- Presentation notice of Afristat and its activities (period 1996-2002), Paris 21;
- "General Data Dissemination System (GDDS), Statistical Capacity-building Initiatives", by Mr. Olivier J.M. Chinganya, IMF;
- "International initiatives for strengthening agricultural and rural statistics in Africa for poverty reduction and food security", by Mr. Neman Keita, FAO; and
- "Programme statistique du secrétariat exécutif de la CEDEAO".

70.   The following major partners presented reports on their initiatives and work programmes aimed at promoting statistical development in the African region: ADB; BCEAO; FAO; IMF; AFRISTAT; UNSD; PARIS 21; US Bureau of Census; EASTC.

71.   A representative of the Economic and Social Policy Division of ECA (ESPD) also made a presentation on the main indicators used by this division in the preparation of the Economic Report on Africa.

ECA statistical activities (agenda item 8.9)

Report on ECA statistical activities during 2002-2003 and the programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005 (agenda item 8.9.1)

72.   Documents received:

- "Report on ECA Statistical Activities 2001-2002 and the programme of work for 2003 and for the biennium 2004-2005 (ESPD and Subregional Centres)" (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/32).

73.   Issues raised:

ECA's high vacancy rate in its statistics section has adversely affected programme implementation and resulted in a decline of the statistics function at ECA and contributed to the loss by ECA of its lead role in the promotion of statistical development in various areas such as national accounts and related fields.

74.   Actions recommended:

- ECA should re-establish its leadership role in the promotion of statistical development in Africa; and
- Soon after its establishment, the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA) should work out concrete proposals on how best to proceed to strengthen the statistics function at ECA.

Any other business (agenda item 8.10)

75.   The secretariat provided information on its ongoing internship programme, which is designed for junior statistician-economists and computer scientists.

76.   The Subcommittee was informed that Mr. Lamine Diop, Director General of AFRISTAT would leave on 1 January 2004. Members of the Subcommittee paid tribute to Mr. Diop for his important contribution to the promotion of statistical development in Africa.

Adoption of report (agenda item 8.11)

77.   The Subcommittee adopted its report.

Subcommittee on Geoinformation (agenda item 9)

Attendance

78.   The meeting of the Subcommittee on Geoinformation was attended by delegates from the following member States: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia.

79.   The meeting was also attended by observers from the following organizations: African Media Productions; AOCRS; EIS-AFRICA; ESRI; Ethiopian Science and Technology Commission (ESTC); Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy, Germany; Federal School of Surveying, Nigeria; Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa; Institut Panos Paris; Institute of Social Studies, Netherlands; Federal Federation of Surveyors (FIG); International Cartographic Association (ICA); International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing; ITC, Netherlands; Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); Leica Geosystems; MAPS Geosystems, United Arab Emirates; Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA); NASRDA, Nigeria; National Bureau of Statistics, Tanzania; Nile Basin International Discourse, Uganda; OAKAR Services Ltd., Kenya; Orebro University, Sweden; RCMRD, Kenya; RECTAS, Nigeria; Sambus Company Ltd, Ghana; Southern and Easter African Mineral Centre (SEAMIC), Tanzania; Swedesurvey AB; Trans World Radio, Kenya; U.S. Federal Geographic Data Committee; U.S. Geological Survey & Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Secretariat; United Nations University; University College of Lands and Architectural Studies (UCLAS), Tanzania; University of Cape Town, South Africa; University of Hannover, Germany; University of Lagos, Nigeria; International Steering Committee on Global Mapping (ISCGM), African Association of Remote Sensing for the Environment (AARSE); Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Services (CERSGIS); CIGET; Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE), Senegal; WFP, Ethiopia; UNEP; Information Systems Services (ISS), Ethiopia.

80.   The Subcommittee on Geoinformation met from 12 to 15 May 2003. A workshop on establishing a Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructures in Africa was held from 10 to 11 May 2003. Other workshops were held on 16 May 2003 and on 17 May 2003 on Spatial Data Content Standards, Enterprise Geoinformation Coordination, Institutional and Technical Issues for Geoinformation managers with a view on National Spatial Data Infrastructures and the Ethiopian National Stakeholders' Workshop. The reports of these workshops are available on the ECA website at (http://www.uneca.org/disd).

Opening (agenda item 9.1)

81.   The outgoing Chairperson, the representative of Botswana, opened the meeting.

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

82.   The secretariat made a brief presentation on CODI and CODI-Geoinformation, its terms of reference and the way the work of the Subcommittee has been organized, including both technical and logistic matters. The meeting then elected the chairperson, vice-chairperson and a rapporteur as follows:

- Chair: Kenya
- Vice-Chair: Morocco
- Rapporteur: Congo

A drafting resolutions committee was elected with the following members: Congo, ECA, Mali, Regional Centres, Sudan and Senegal.

83.   The agenda and programme of work was adopted.

Geographic information and governance (agenda item 9.3)

84.   Issues raised:

- Information is crucial for governance and should be freely accessible to governments and communities;
- Pricing inhibits the ease of access to geoinformation products. However, cost-recovery policies or needs do not permit producers, in most cases, to lower the price of products;
- In some cases, lack of data stock also inhibits access to information;
- Geoinformation is now mature and marketable but the way geoinformation is presented makes it appear too technical and is not understood and appreciated by non-experts; and
- It is not feasible to remove the responsibility for geoinformation production from government, as civil society actors do not have the capacity, and the private sector will only produce it when (and where) there is a profit.

85.   Actions recommended:

- Cost-sharing can be done between produces and users, using cheaper methods of data production, taking advantage of data produced by other data producers;
- Geoinformation as a technical term should be given other non-technical aliases that reflect the interest of governments and donors in the new paradigm of information for good governance. Such aliases like UNICEF's term "Community-focused development monitoring and evaluation system" should be used;
- Geoinformation should be demystified, and related to other forms of information that is widely appreciated, such as ICT and statistics;
- Awareness and education among decision-makers is needed in relation to the role of geoinformation in governance and development;
- Geoinformation needs to be enhanced and valued-added products that make

geoinformation more visible and appreciated by a wider community should be developed.
- Geoinformation management should be introduced in educational and training institutions; and
- Strengthening of institutional capacities should be reconciled with availability of data.

Progress reports (agenda item 9.4)

86. Documents received:

- "ECA report on follow-up and future activities for 2003, 2004 and 2005" (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/7), Orlando Nino-Fluck, ECA.

87. Other presentations received:

- "Synthesis of country reports", Chukwudozie Ezigbalike, ECA;
- "Global mapping activities", Derek Clark, ISCGM;
- "EIS –Africa activities", Elizabeth Gavin, EIS-Africa;
- "AOCRS report", Muftah Unis, AOCRS; and
- "Cooperation in Surveying and Mapping between African countries and Japan", Hiroshi Une and Kaoru Tsuda, JICA.

88. Issues Raised:

The meeting praised the efforts made by ECA in advancing GI in Africa, particularly those aimed at assisting member States to develop and establish national and regional SDIs. It noted the high number of capacity-building workshops ECA had organized or to which it had provided technical support. It further noted, with appreciation, that ECA has been able to facilitate the participation of African nationals in relevant workshops, seminars and conferences, and urged the commission to increase such support.

Other issues raised:

- There are difficulties in maintaining an inventory of the status of cartographic coverage in Africa due to the laxity of member States in providing the required information;
- The United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences for Africa charged ECA with the responsibility of coordinating the standardization of geographical names

in Africa, but CODI has not yet dealt with this;

- Lack of coordination among national stakeholders will always be present if there are no national policies on geoinformation;
- A substantive number of African countries are not yet contributing to the Global Mapping Project due to lack of capacity and resources;
- Applications for the ESRI grant for Global Mapping Project are still open; and
- Although there is potential for local institutions to contribute to SDI capacity-building, there is still a heavy dependence on substantial support from educational and training institutions from abroad.

89.   Actions recommended:

- Participants recommended that Africa must take ownership of its future by developing its own SDI. Furthermore, ECA should create an enabling environment for the exchange and sharing of information among the secretariat, CODI's executive working group and national focal points. It further urged member States to take advantage of the country spaces provided by ECA's clearinghouse node.

Policy issues (agenda item 9.5)

90.   Documents received:

- "Establishing a Permanent Committee on SDI for Africa - Proposed Draft Statutes" (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/12);
- "Windhoek Declaration on an African Geodetic Reference Frame" (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/11); and
- "Geoinformation and NEPAD: Executive Summary" (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/9), by Mr. Craig A. Schwabe.

91.   Presentations received:

- "Report on the Workshop on Permanent Committee on SDI", by ECA;
- "National and Regional Capacity-building for Geoinformation Technology", UCLAS, RECTAS, RCMRD, ITC;
- "Establishing a regional SDI with an European view", by Mr. D. Gruenreich, Eurogeographics;
- Activities of the following organizations: AOCRS, RECTAS, RCMRD; and
- "Cooperation in Surveying and Mapping between African countries and Japan", by H. Une and K. Tsuda.

92.   Summary of Issues raised:

ECA was highly commended for its efforts and resources in the preparation and convening of the Pan African Seminar on a Permanent Committee on SDIs for Africa, including the working documents. Participants recommended that the report of the seminar be adopted. The functions of the Committee would be incorporated in the terms of reference of CODI-Geo. Its Standing Preparatory Working Group would be transformed into the Executive Working Group and other working groups would be created to support the realization of the objectives of CODI-Geo. It was also agreed that CODI should support the efforts and programmes on Geoinformation in Universities.

Technical issues (agenda item 9.6)

93.   Documents received:

- "SDI handbook for Africa: Chapter Two: Spatial Data Infrastructure Explained" (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/18);
- "SDI handbook for Africa: Chapter One" (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/18 Add 1);
- "SDI handbook for Africa: Chapter Four" (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/18 Add 2);
- "SDI handbook for Africa: Chapter Seven" (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/18 Add 3);
- "SDI handbook for Africa: Chapter Three" (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/18 Add 4);
- "SDI handbook for Africa: Chapter Five" (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/18 Add 5); and
- "Spatial Data Infrastructure: Getting Explained" (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/25).

Presentations received:
- "SDI Africa handbook", by Andre Bassolé, EIS-Africa;
- "African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF) implementation: 'Continental Spatial Reference Frames': Issues of Technology Management", by Ms. Yola Georgiadou, International Institute for Geoinformation and Earth Observation, Netherlands; and
- "Atlas a metaphor for SDIs", Prof. Bengt Rystedt, ICA.

94.   Issues raised:

The meeting endorsed the SDI publication to be changed from an analysis of the status of GI development in Africa into a practical guide for the use of stakeholders engaged in developing national SDIs. It was recommended that recognition should be extended to all those who have made a contribution and that GI managers should be included in the implementation of AFREF.

New trends and developments (agenda item 9.7)

95.   Presentations received

- Internet mapping: "Webmapping, governments and public", by Prof. Menno-Jan Kraak, International Institue for Geoinformation and Earth Observation (ITC), Netherlands;
- High resolution imagery products and tools, "Experiences with High Resolution Satellite Images for Information Extraction", by Prof. John Trinder;
- "The use of high resolution imagery in urban planning and management: A case of the city of Nairobi", by W. Otthichilo and Erick Salama, RECTAS; Rolph Becker, Maps Geosystems;
- New ways in data collection: "New advances in field data collection with GIS", by David Gadsden & Dan Zimbie, Environmental Systems Research Institute, Redlands, CA, USA; and
- "Digital technology for data capture and processing: capture it, measure it, map it and image it", by Marc Grimmel, LEICA Geosystems.

96.   Issues raised

- A good understanding of new technologies through proper education and training is needed.
- There are still some limitations on the use of satellite imagery, such as cloud cover, repeatability, cost, coverage, sustainability of the systems. Satellite imagery systems will not fully replace other ways of data collection, such as aerial photography. Each system offers advantages and disadvantages, depending on the purpose.

Any other business (agenda item 9.8)

97.   Issues raised:

- The need to elect members to represent the subregions in the executive working group of CODI-Geo was raised.

98.   Actions taken:

- It was agreed that the following would be the members of the CODI-Geo executive working group:
  - East African subregion: Kenya (Chair)

- North African subregion: Morocco
- West African subregion: Ghana
- Central Africa subregion: Gabon
- Southern Africa subregion: South Africa

Adoption of the report and closing (agenda item 9.9)

100. Issues raised:

On the adoption of the report, the following issues were raised:

- The resolutions constitute the major elements of the meeting. Therefore, the Secretariat must ensure that they are submitted in French and English;
- Some omissions and inaccuracies were noted in the list of attendance, as well as in the list of presentations at the various sessions;
- Cote d'Ivoire complained that the presentation that they had prepared for the meeting, concerning successful development in African countries, could not be presented due to lack of time;
- Additional resolutions were considered, including:
    - Integration of information policies and technologies across CODI;
    - Public-private partnership (PPP);
    - Data infrastructure;
    - Funding for geoinformation;
    - Awareness raising;
    - CODI-Geo support of data standards for NEPAD;

101. Actions recommended:

- The Secretariat should ensure that the report is submitted in both languages;
- The report was adopted with amendments.

102. The meeting was closed by the Chairperson at 4.30 p.m.

C. Resumed Plenary Sessions

Reports of the Subcommittees (agenda item 10)

103.   The plenary session received the reports of the subcommittees and adopted them.

Date and venue of next meeting (agenda item 11)

104.   The Director of DISD explained that since CODI meets every two years, the next meeting is scheduled to take place in 2005. The exact date will be determined after considering other planned events.

Any other business (agenda item 12)

105.   There was no other business.

Adoption of the report and closing session (agenda item 13)

106.   Key issues raised:

- The resolution of the Subcommittee on ICT regarding the establishment of a digital solidarity fund should specifically state that the "digital solidarity fund is for Africa." There was a suggestion to specifically mention President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal in the resolution because he had elsewhere recommended the establishment of a digital fund;
- There was a suggestion to postpone adoption of the report until it had been circulated to participants and confirmation had been received that the English and French versions were the same and that all amendments had been made;
- Institut National de Cartographie (INC) of Gabon was missing in the list of observers; and
- There was a call to create a new subcommittee on "Open Information" to cater for Open Source software and other similar issues.

107.   Clarification provided:

- The Secretariat should amend the resolution to specify "digital solidarity fund for

Africa" and check with members of the Subcommittee on ICT on the need to specify or credit President Abdoulaye Wade for the idea;

- The "draft" report would need to be adopted for the meeting to officially close. The Secretariat agreed to receive and incorporate all comments before the final report was issued; and
- On the omission of INC, it was noted that participants from INC attended as the official delegates of Gabon and not as observers.

108.   The Chairperson thanked participants, organizers and interpreters for the success of the meeting and then called on the chief of DISD to make some closing remarks. The Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. K.Y Amoako also made some closing remarks before the Chairperson closed the meeting.

D. Special Events and Exhibition

Below is a list of 17 special parallel events, including exhibitions and poster sessions held in the course of CODI III.

SE1: Symposium on establishing Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructures for Africa
SE2: Workshop on open source software for improved administration in Africa
SE3: AVLIN Advisory Committee
SE4: African Stakeholders' Network (ASN) meeting
SE5: Workshop on technical aspects of building digital libraries and electronic information
SE6: Working Group on Statistics and Governance
SE7: AISI Media Awards and launch of the African regional node of E-Pol-Net
SE8: Seminar Series for Ethiopian Parliamentarians
SE9: General Assembly of the African Association of Linux Users Group
SE10: Presentation of the Africa version of the CHILD INFO UNICEF software
SE11: Workshop on spatial data content standards
SE12: Addis Ababa University Library Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information
SE13: Workshop on corporate GI coordination
SE14: Ethiopian National SDI Stakeholders' workshop
SE15: Second Media Forum: media and capacity building in the information society
SE16: Inaugural meeting of ABSA
SE17: Workshop on institutional and technical issues for GIS managers with a vision on NSDI

Exhibition - Demonstrations and poster sessions

EX1: GKP Market Place
EX2: Country reports upon request

E. List of annexes

Annex 1. Resolutions of the Third Meeting of the Committee on Development Information

Resolutions of the Subcommittee on ICT

1. **Accelerating the process of the formulation, development and implementation of NICI plans**

Noting that:

- The African Information Society Initiative (AISI) action plan defines the importance of introducing and applying ICTs to improve public services and facilitate democratization processes, among others;
- An increasing number of countries have initiated the formulation process over the past years, while a number of countries are yet to initiate such processes; and
- E-governance and e-government are important sectoral applications within the framework of NICI plans in African countries;

Recommends that:

Member States
- Establish sensitization programmes for government to promote the development of NICIs and e-government projects;
- Strategize on the use of ICTs as an enabler to fully contribute to the socio-economic development and the creation of job opportunities;
- Promote better e-government in ensuring consistency in information systems across sectors; and
- Combine the ICTs with other development instruments for the desired impacts on development;

ECA
- Subregional offices increase their involvement in the NICI development processes, particularly in the area of e-governance; and
- Promotes ICT networks for African parliamentarians and helps increase their capacity to promote the development of e-governance at the parliamentarian level

and enhance the participation of members of parliaments in the formulation and implementation of national ICT policies.

CODI
• Officially designates the Gambia as an AISI e-government model, which will consequently be evaluated and replicated in other African countries.

2.   Promotion of participatory approaches

Considering that:

The participation of civil society, mass media, private sector and academia will ensure the successful formulation and development of NICI policies and plans;
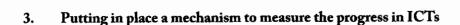
Recommends that:

CODI requests that the Bamako Bureau on Africa's preparation for WSIS take into account civil society and women's participation, including other major concerns and ensure that Africa takes a common platform in the WSIS process;

Member States
• Promote dialogue with civil society and the private sector and provide support to ensure their participation in the formulation, development and implementation of ICT policies and plans;
• Take into account the participation of women in policy formulation, increase the capacity of women for decision making and develop a media programme for gender sensitization; and
• Encourage African youth in activities relating to the production and dissemination of knowledge resources, as well as ensure their full participation in the WSIS process;

ECA
• Support member States in mainstreaming gender issues in ICT policies and plans; and
• E-Pol-NET activities should be included and linked to the AISI Outreach Programme and other African-based ICT initiatives, such as IMPACT Africa that can strengthen information and knowledge sharing among member States.

3. Putting in place a mechanism to measure the progress in ICTs

Noting that:

>There is a need to systematically collect baseline data, set indicators and monitor progress of the impact of ICTs on socio-economic development;

Recommends that:

>member States
>- Develop ICT indicators relevant to achieving AISI goals in line with the Millennium Development Goals in all African countries, using the SCAN-ICT framework; and
>- Give full support to Impact Africa to ensure the use of ICTs for measuring Millennium Development Goals and the PRSPs along with the SCAN-ICT;
>
>ECA
>- In collaboration with member States, develop gender indicators in ICTs and also aggregate data within the framework of SCAN-ICT;
>- Together with partners, extend the SCAN-ICT project to include other African countries; and
>- Create performance indicators for the implementation of AISI.

4. Improved content creation and assistance towards enabling African languages

Recognizing that:

>- Local content and language capabilities are key to democratize access to information and knowledge for all in the continent; and
>- African countries should not only be a consumer of ICTs but a producer of new technologies;

Reiterates that:

>member States
>- Involve the media in all issues of ICT and governance for development using appropriate local languages in disseminating information on ICTs for their effective participation in the governance process;

ECA
- With the support of its member States should develop Africa-wide sectoral portals; and
- Together with its partners support the development of local African languages for content creation through the effective appropriation of open source software for utilization in the governance process and to enable citizens to gain access to ICTs in general.

5. Enhanced partnerships and collaboration

Considering that:

> The number of ICT initiatives on the continent, the linkage and collaboration as well as sharing of experiences and lessons learned has been weak;

Recommends that:

> ECA
> - Together with member States, establish national committees on NICIs, NEPAD and WSIS;
> - Operationalize AVLIN and intensify the participation of ATAC and civil society for providing assistance to member States;
> - In collaboration with partners, provide assistance to existing information and knowledge networks among different subregions, taking into consideration geography and balance; and
> - Together with GKP, should address the need for wider use of radio in Africa through CSOs in order to reach the grassroots;
>
> The African Stakeholders Network (ASN):
> - Should initiate ICT activities in member States with support from ECA.

6. Enhanced role of libraries

Noting that:

> Libraries can play a crucial role in promoting dissemination of knowledge and involvement of e-governance projects in Africa.

Reiterates that:

member States
- Develop appropriate training programmes for information professionals;
ECA
- Assist member States to develop infrastructure of African libraries and other information institutions;
- Support member States to promote African local content/indigenous knowledge, oral tradition with respect to information society development, particularly in the context of the AVLIN project; and
- Assist member States in undertaking baseline studies on the availability of information and library services within countries and ensure that AVLIN coordinates at the national level and with the other subcommittees – namely Geoinformation and Statistics.

7.   Promotion of free and open source software

Noting that:

Free and open source software can provide cost-effective solutions to African member States and society;

Emphasizes that:

member States
- Adopt free and open source software as an important tool in promoting ICT and good governance;
- Play a key role in promoting open source software by:
    - Introducing appropriate policies and legislation;
    - Stimulating the local software industry;
    - Lowering entry barriers for various kinds of new businesses in the IT industry;
- Consider the political and economic security issues associated with the use of OSS and work with ECA to undertake research on how issues of national sovereignty can be safeguarded.

ECA
- Together with partners and member States establish an inter–African collaboration and networking mechanism to promote open source software and a portal site on

success stories;

- Assist civil society to sensitize and organize awareness activities on the need to create associations promoting the use of open source network;
- Develop capacity-building programmes on open source software utilization for the development of ICT industry in Africa; and
- AVLIN and the other subcommittees should promote the use of OSS in their work.

8. Facilitating the public-private partnership (PPP)

Noting that:

The development of ICTs and their application in various sectors depend on the services and products offered by the private sector. The public sector has a key role to play in creating an enabling environment to ensure the development of a vibrant ICT industry.

Recommends that member States:

- Encourage and license local telecom operators to invest in rural areas; and

ECA should
- Establish a framework for public-private partnership (PPP) for Africa in the use of ICT-enabled equitable development.

9. Rationalization of initiatives

Noting that:

There is a proliferation of programmes responding to the needs of ICT development in Africa;

Recommends that member States, ECA and the international community:

- Promote and coordinate ICT initiatives to narrow the digital divide between Africa and the rest of the world with the objective of establishing a digital solidarity fund for Africa.

Resolutions of the Subcommittee on Statistics

10.   Peer review of statistical capacity

Accepting that:

Official statistics produced in accordance with the fundamental principles of official statistics are a necessary condition for good governance,

Recommends that member States:

- Adopt a process for assessing the statistical capacity of member States. Initially, volunteer countries should undertake the testing and adoption of tools and processes for the peer review of statistical capacity for adoption as part of the NEPAD commitment support by an expert group provided by UNECA/PARIS21.

Resolutions of the Subcommittee on Geoinformation

11.   Integration of information policies and technologies across CODI

Noting that:

Catalogue service protocols have been developed by the library community to support the distributed search of digital and non-digital library resources, and cataloguing and metadata development expertise and policies exist within the library community;

Emerging spatial data infrastructures (SDI) are being developed to catalogue and to provide access to geographic information that use and extend Internet-based library search and retrieval standards;

Statistical information collection and management strategies reflect a dependence on locations that should be coordinated with geographic places as well as national political subdivisions (subnational political boundaries) and be made accessible using common search methods;

Information and communication technologies (ICT) offer Internet services and the capacity to locate and apply data services in support of mission requirements and e-

government; and

Library, geographic, statistical, and ICT communities operate somewhat autonomously but have potential for better integration of solutions, and that potential exists for redundant, incompatible solutions to be developed despite limited available resources;

Recommends that:

CODI should develop a coordinated task group to integrate and publish common policies and technical strategies for:
- Library applications;
- Metadata development;
- Geographic and statistical data and services;
- Standards-based information retrieval technologies; and
- ICT frameworks, portal, and e-government services designs in order to optimize access to development information.

12. On public-private partnership (PPP)

Recognizing that:

The development of the private sector has a positive impact on governance and the role it plays in improving the overall economy of the countries;

National agencies can enhance the production and management of geographic information goods and services by engaging the private sector in the various phases of the process.

Recommends that:

African countries should engage in public-private partnerships to collect and process the geographic information that is needed for the execution of development projects at local, subnational and national levels, following the principles of transparency and mutual trust;

Governments should include the private sector in all consultative processes related to national/local geoinformation policies and plans;

It is imperative that African countries should establish national committees on

PPPs to advocate and advance appropriate and successful frameworks for PPP implementation.

13. On data infrastructure

Recognizing that:

The realization of the objectives of NEPAD, the Millennium Development Goals and WSSD will require a vast amount of geographic information, which, for the majority of African countries, is not available and accessible in a usable form by governments and society;

SDIs are a robust response to the constraints that inhibit the availability, access and use of geoinformation;

Many African countries have made achievements in the establishment of NSDI, but there are still many countries with little progress in this sense;

Fundamental datasets are a crucial component of SDI and these are missing in most African countries;

Resolves:

To adopt the recommendations of the Pan African Workshop on a Permanent Committee for Africa, expanding the terms of reference of CODI-Geo to include the functions of the proposed Permanent Committee.

Reiterates to member States:

That they should give priority to the establishment of NSDIs, to fully participate in the Global Mapping Project, AFREF and to participate in and provide support for the activities of the Working Groups of CODI-Geo, which now has included the functions of a Permanent Committee on SDIs for Africa.

Recommends that:

- Africa must take ownership of its future by developing its own SDI;
- Donor-financed projects should be provided with framework data from governments and that all data resulting from a project should be produced, maintained and

disseminated according to the principles of the NSDI. The negotiations of the terms of the loan should take this into account;

- Those agencies responsible for the implementation of AFREF should incorporate GI managers in the process;
- National agencies producers of geoinformation should give priority to digitize their analogue spatial data holdings, using published data models, following the principles of SDI.

14.   On funding for geoinformation

Noting that:

- Information is crucial for good governance and should be made readily accessible to governments and communities;
- The current cost of GI to the end user is high and so discourages use for good governance;
- Production of GI is a capital intensive activity;
- That GI is now mature and marketable;

Recommends that:

- Governments should recognize GI production as an investment and as a national asset and, therefore, should increase the allocation of funds in their national budgets;
- CODI-Geo should facilitate the sourcing of funds in the development of SDI at all levels;
- Costs for maintaining data can be reduced by sharing them among producers and users, by proper cost-effective methods, and by utilizing data produced by other data producers.

15.   On awareness-raising

Noting that:

- The way geoinformation is presented to non-experts makes it appear too technical and difficult to understand and appreciate;
- There is a lack of knowledge about how to utilize geoinformation in decision-making;

Recommends that:

- Key players in GI production and management at international, regional, and national levels should take measures in demystifying concept and use, and relate GI to other forms of information, such as statistics and ICT;
- That all the three CODI subcommittees (ICT, Stat, GEO) at national level should undertake concerted actions and work together, through the establishment of a national committee on development information in order to sensitize and educate policy-makers of the benefits and value of information for development and good governance;
- That national committees for spatial information be established.

16. CODI-Geo support of data standards for NEPAD

Noting that:

Many members of CODI-Geo are representatives of national mapping organizations within Africa and are familiar with and can advocate data provider requirements for Framework or Fundamental data themes. Vital development information is maintained by statistical, environmental, natural resources, and infrastructure management agencies within a country. Much of this information has a geographic context and is used in resource management practices by the government. These organizations may not be represented in CODI activities or yet participate in SDI activities. The availability of structured and documented Fundamental and Thematic data is critical to governance. The NEPAD initiative will require common data models and access methods that are supportive of multiple user needs.

Recommends that:

CODI should convene a multidisciplinary, multinational work group to formalize data models and access methods that address both data provider and consumer needs for geographic and statistical information in support of NEPAD.

17. General

Considering that:

Many of the recommendations and issues raised by the subcommittee on capacity-

building, policy and coordination, and other aspects are already contained in previous resolutions of CODI;

Reiterates that:

All those concerned should ensure implementation of the recommendations and resolutions.

Annex 2. Provisional agenda

Theme of the Meeting: "Information and Governance" (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/1)

Plenary sessions

1. Opening
2. Election of officers and organization of work
3. Key introductory panel: " Information and Governance"
4. Decentralization, community empowerment, and the role of civil society
5. Facilitating transparent public financial management and accountability
6. Involving the private sector

Subcommittee sessions

7. Subcommittee on Information and Communication Technology including 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)

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

1.1 Opening
1.2 Election of officers and organization of work
1.3 Report of activities

    7.3.1   Report on recommendations from CODI II

    2.2.2   Report of the African Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) on the implementation of AISI

    2.2.3   Progress report on African Virtual Library and Information Network (AVLIN)

2.2.4   Report of African Stakeholders' Network (ASN) meeting

7.4 ICT in support of governance; opportunities and challenges
7.5 GKP Africa Day
1.1.1   Opening

1.1.2 ICT & governance
1.1.2.1   Country experiences
1.1.2.2   Presentation of AISI electronic discussion on e-governance
1.1.2.3   GKP lessons learnt from Asia
1.1.2.4   Exchange of experiences
1.1.2.5   Strategies for promoting e-governance: an African action plan

1.1.3 Progress in ICT polices
1.1.3.1   ECA's progress report on NICI implementation
1.1.3.2   Presentation on selected NICI countries
1.1.3.3   Presentation on the outcome of the study on
            telecommunication policy and regulation in Africa

1.1.4 Information & knowledge developments
1.1.4.1   National SCAN-ICT baseline studies
1.1.4.2   E-Pol-Net
1.1.4.3   Report on the value of library services in development
1.1.4.4   The Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA)
1.1.4.5   Report on ECA activities in ICT & Library during 2002-2003
            & work programme for the biennium 2004-2005

1.1.5 Closing

1.2 Any other business

7.7 Adoption of report and closing session

7.   **Subcommittee on Statistics**
1.1 Opening
1.2 Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work
1.3 Statistics and governance
1.4 Country reports
1.5 Follow-up to the conclusions and recommendations of the second meeting of

CODI II Subcommittee on Statistics
1.6 The 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA93) in Africa
1.7 Policy issues
      1.7.1   The establishment of the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA)
      1.7.2   Report of the Working Group on "Statistics and Governance"

1.8 ECA initiatives on development indicators
      1.8.1   Economic and Social Policy Division (ESPD)
      1.8.2   African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD)
      1.8.3   Development Management Division (DMD)

1.9 Regional and subregional initiatives for statistical development in Africa
      1.9.1   IMF (GDDS)
      1.9.2   AFRISTAT (PROSMIC)
      1.9.3   UNSD
      1.9.4   ILO
      1.9.5   THE WORLD BANK
      1.9.6   DFID
      1.9.7   PARIS21
      1.9.8   THE US BUREAU OF CENSUS

1.10 Report on ECA statistical activities during 2002-2003 and the programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005
1.11 Any other business
1.12 Adoption of the report

9.   Subcommittee on Geoinformation

    9.1   Opening
    9.2   Introduction, organization of work and election of officers
    3.3 Geographic information and governance
    3.4 Progress reports on status of development and implementation of resolutions of CODI II
    (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/1)

9.5 Policy issues, with special reference to:
      1.1.1   Permanent Committee on SDIs for Africa (PC-SDIAf)
      1.1.2   African Reference Framework (AFREF)

6.6 Technical Issues: New trends and developments, with special reference to:
      6.6.1   The SDI African Handbook
      6.6.2   AFREF implementation

6.7 New trends and developments
      6.7.1   Internet mapping
      6.7.2   High-resolution imagery
      6.7.3   New ways of data collection with GIS

6.8 Any other business
6.9 Adoption of report and closing session

SPECIAL EVENTS:

SE1:   Symposium on establishing Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructures for Africa

SE2:   Workshop on open source software for improved administration in Africa

SE3:   AVLIN Advisory Committee

SE4:   African Stakeholders' Network (ASN) meeting

SE5:   Workshop on technical aspects of building digital libraries and electronic information

SE6:   Working Group on Statistics and Governance

SE7:   AISI Media Awards and launch of the African regional node of E-Pol-Net

SE8:   Seminar Series for Ethiopian Parliamentarians

SE9:   General Assembly of the African Association of Linux Users Group

SE10: Presentation of the Africa version of the CHILD INFO UNICEF software

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SE12: Addis Ababa University Library Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information

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SE15:   Second Media Forum: media and capacity building in the information society

SE16:   Inaugural meeting of ABSA

SE17: Workshop on institutional and technical issues for GIS managers with a vision on NSDI

Exhibition - demonstrations and poster sessions

EX1:   GKP Market Place

EX2:   Country reports upon request

Annex 3. List of observer institutions

International and regional institutions:
African Union, Ethiopia; AFRISTAT, Mali; Agence de la Francophonie, Benin; Agence intergouvernementale de la Francophone, France; Canadian International Development Agency; CARTEL SECURITE, France; ECA Subregional Office, Central Africa, Cameroon; ECOWAS Secretariat, Nigeria; COMESA, Zambia; DFID/IMF GDDS Project, Kenya; DIAL, France; ESRI, United States of America; FAO Regional Office for Africa, Ghana; Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy, Germany; Federal Strategic Consulting, United States of America; Global Commerce Network INC, United States of America; IGAD Secretariat, Djibouti; Institute of Surveying, Remote Sensing and Land Information, BOKU, Austria; International Affairs, South Africa; International Cartographic Association (ICA), Sweden; International Institute for Information Technology (INIIT), Ghana; International Labour Office, Switzerland; International Policy Industry Canada, Canada; International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Australia; International Telecommunications Union, Ethiopia; InWEnt - Munich Centre for Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics, Germany; ITC, Netherlands; Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Kenya; Leica Geosystems, Switzerland; MAPS Geosystems, United Arab Emirates; Maritus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mauritius; UEMOA, Burkina Faso; UNDP, Ethiopia; UNDP/ CEA-SURF, Ethiopia; UNDP/ECA-SURF, Ethiopia; UNECA, Ethiopia; UNECA/AVLIN Secretariat, Ethiopia; UNEP, Kenya; UNESCO, Ethiopia; UNHQ/ DESA/ SD, United States of America; UNICEF ESARO, Kenya; United Nations Information and Communications Technologies Task Force, United States of America; USAID/Ethiopia, Ethiopia; WAICENT Outreach Programme, FAO, Ghana; WFP, Ethiopia; Women of Uganda Network WOUGNET, Uganda; World Bank, United States of America; Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), Switzerland; Organization internationale de la francophonie, Ethiopia; Southern and Eastern African Mineral Centre (SEAMIC), Tanzania; SURF/UNDP, Senegal; Nile Basin International Discourse, Uganda; PARIS21/OECD, France; SADC Secretariat, Botswana; RECTAS, Nigeria; Election B. /UNDP, Ethiopia; ESMT/ IMPACT-Africa, Senegal;

Financial institutions
African Development Bank (ADB), Tunisia; BCEAO, Senegal; CEMAC, Central African Republic;

Academic institutions and research centres:
United Nations University, United Kingdom; Université de Conakry, Guinea; Université de Kinshasa et association Congolaise des utilisateurs des logiciels libres (ACOULL), Democratic Republic of Congo; Universite de Nouakchott, Mauritania; University College of Lands and

Architectural Studies (UCLAS), Tanzania; University of Cape Town, South Africa; University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; University of Ghana, Ghana; University of Hannover, Germany; University of Ibadan, Nigeria; University of Jos Nigeria, Nigeria; University of Lagos, Nigeria; University of Witwatersrand, South Africa; University of Yaounde, Cameroon; University of Zambia, Zambia; Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia; Advanced School of Management and Information Technologies, Algeria; Alemaya University, Ethiopia, Association of African Universities, Ghana; Centre for Media Studies & Peace Building, Liberia; IDRC, Mozambique; Informatique developpement et Etudes, Tunisia; Orebro University , Sweden; Modern Sciences and Arts University, Egypt; National Documentation Centre, Morocco;

African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS), Algeria; Centre d'information et de documentation économique et sociale (CIDES), Ministère des finances et de l'économie, Niger; Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC), Tanzania; Ecole nationale d'économie appliquée (ENEA), Senegal; Ecole nationale supérieure de statistique et d'économie appliquée (ENSEA), Côte d'Ivoire; Ecole nationale supérieure polytechnique, Cameroon; Direction de la prévision et de la statistique (DPS), Senegal; Direction de la statistique, Morocco; Direction de la Statistique, Morocco; Direction général de la statistique et des etudes economiques (DGSEE), Gabon; Direction nationale de la planification, Mali; Centre de Calcul El Khawarizmi, Tunisia; Ethiopian Civil Service College, Ethiopia; Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa; INRIA & LaBRI, Universite Bordeaux I, France; International Development Research Centre, Canada; The American University in Cairo, Egypt; PACT Ethiopia Development Resource Centre, Ethiopia;

Government institutions and embassies:
Department of State for Finance, Gambia; EPA, Ethiopia; Ethiopian Science and Technology Commission (ESTC), Ethiopia; Ethiopian Mapping Authority, Ethiopia; Ethiopian Telecommunications Corporation, Ethiopia; Ministére de l'enseignement supérieur, Cameroon; Ministère de la communication, de la culture chargé des postes et des télécommunications, Djibouti; Ministry of Capacity-building , Ethiopia; Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Namibia; Tunise Telecom, Tunisia; U.S Census Bureau, United States of America; National Bureau of Statistics, Tanzania; Embassy of Algeria in Ethiopia; Embassy of Burkina Faso in Ethiopia; Embassy of Congo in Ethiopia; Embassy of Gabon in Ethiopia; National Statistical Institute, Mozambique; Présidence de la republique, Senegal; Presidential National Commission on Information Society and Development, South Africa; Prime Minister Office, Morocco; Technology Promotion Council, Government of Assam (India), Ethiopia; The British Council; U.S. Geological Survey & Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Secretariat; Service des dépenses d'eau de l'etat, Côte d'Ivoire; Swedesurvey AB, Sweden; Swiss Federal Statistical Office, Switzerland; National Urban Planning Institute, Ethiopia; Partenariat pour le développement municipal (PDM), Benin;

Private sector:
Bizsoft, Ethiopia, Computer Systems House, Ethiopia; Concepts Data Systems, Ethiopia; Consultant, Benin; Cote d'Ivoire telecom aviso, Côte d'Ivoire; CyberSoft plc., Ethiopia; Ethiopian Airlines, Ethiopia; ICTAfrica, Ethiopia; Information Systems and Technology Management, Malawi; Information Systems Services, Ethiopia; Information Systems Services (ISS), Ethiopia; Information Technology Solutions (ITS), Ethiopia; Mer International Trading, Ethiopia; Mobil Ping Africa, Ethiopia; Open Source in Morocco (OSIM), Morocco; Sambus Company Ltd, Ghana; Online Systems House, Ethiopia; OAKAR Services Ltd., Kenya;

Media:
African Media Productions, Netherlands; Daily Monitor, Ethiopia; Fenote Selam Newspaper, Ethiopia; Journal N'Djamena-Hebdo, Chad; Maghreb arab presse agency, Morocco; Maison de la presse de Bujumbura, Burundi; Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), Namibia; Radio Afrique Espoir FM, Benin; Radio IFM, Gambia; Swazi Observer, Swaziland; Trans World Radio, Kenya; Morocco News Agency, Ethiopia; Ethiopian Herald, Ethiopia National Computer & Information Centre (NCIC) Ethiopia; Network Computer Systems, Ghana; Tesfa Publishers, Ethiopia; Tamesol Communications, Ethiopia; ZCP Information, Burkina Faso.

NGOs/CSOs:
African Centre for Women, Information and Communications Technology, Kenya; African Youth Initiative (AYI), Ghana; Comboni Sisters, Ethiopia; ENDA, Senegal; Fantsuam Foundation, Nigeria; Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA), Kenya; I.I.C.D., Netherlands; Institut Panos Paris, Congo; PFI Foundation Ethiopia,

Other:
AG3L, Gabon; AMULL, Mali; Bokk Jang Senegal; CERSGIS, Ghana; CNI-CBINET, Burundi; DRSP, Burundi; EIS-AFRICA, South Africa; Freelance, Senegal; Junior Achievement of Nigeria, Nigeria; Ligth of Eda/AP, Ethiopia; LUSA, Ethiopia; MCC, Ethiopia; MENA, Egypt; MoFED, Ethiopia; NASRDA, Nigeria; NIC-MG/AMUL, Madagascar; OCDE, France; OMAC, Democratic Republic of Congo; Opus Lingua, Senegal; Oxford Policy Management, United Kingdom; Ethiopia; RCMRD, Kenya; SAP, Kenya.