
INFORMATION SHARING ON STATISTICAL CAPACITY PROJECTS

Prepared by PARIS 21

1. The development of national statistical systems in low-income countries and co-ordination among donors have been impeded by various factors, including a duplication of efforts in support to statistical systems and the lack of an appropriate mechanism to facilitate donor co-ordination at the country level. To address this issue, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) organised, in collaboration with the World Bank, the Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDev) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 12–13 May 2004. The objectives of the meeting were to (i) provide an overview of statistical activities, including assistance, and training in Africa; (ii) set up a permanent system for the monitoring of statistical development in Africa; and (iii) strengthen modalities for cooperation with a view to leveraging on each partner's comparative advantage.
 2. This was a fresh opportunity for all partners supporting statistical development in Africa to share information and envision a real collaboration mechanism to support African countries' statistical development. The meeting was well attended: 22 organisations (international, regional, sub-regional, and bilateral) participated and made presentations on their activities to support statistical development in Africa. There was overall support (i) to establish FASDev as a permanent mechanism to encourage partner collaboration; (ii) to contribute to annual reports on activities related to statistical development; (iii) to develop a common strategic framework for the statistical development of Africa; and (iv) to call on all stakeholders to support FASDev activities.
 3. A second FASDev is in preparations and could be held in May 2005. After consultations with partners, PARIS21 will propose a light reporting mechanism through which donors can share information on their statistical capacity building programmes in African countries. PARIS21 encourages replicating this event in other regions.
-