

Luanda Declaration for Statistics

We, the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, as well as representatives of National Statistical Offices of African countries under the auspices of the UNECA, gathered here in Luanda, Angola, on this 7th day of December 2006

considering the limitations of the institutional capacity of National Statistical Systems across Africa;

aware of the urgent need to address issues of poverty and other challenges around the world, and the opportunity provided by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to create a rallying challenge for global partnership as the cornerstone for an international and regional development policy;

considering the initiatives adopted by the United Nations, namely the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses;

considering that Statistics constitutes a fundamental instrument for the monitoring of socio-economic development in African countries;

aware of the fact that focused initiatives have been put in place towards the development of Statistics in Africa;

conscious of the fact that countries which have emerged from conflict need support to strengthen their institutional capacity in the area of Statistics and to be better positioned to inform on their national priorities;

determined to actively support African countries, particularly those in post-conflict situation, in conducting a Population and Housing Census in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, within the context of the resolutions of the Cape Town 2006 Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD):

Do hereby declare and commit ourselves to adopting the following Resolutions:

Resolution 1

Convene annually with the African Statistical Community, using the ASSD fora, to confer on the most important issues that affect Statistics and the Political and Socio-Economic situation of the Continent, in the context of NEPAD and the mandate of the African Union.

Resolution 2

Institutional strengthening in Africa is encouraged, as well as the need to proceed with appropriate institutional arrangements and with assuring that, in each country, the legislation on the issue be reviewed, taking into account the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission; and, whenever necessary, the regional African agencies should develop Protocols to guide on the implementation of institutional reforms.

Resolution 3

The coordinating role of UNECA needs to be strengthened and, in this context, it has been decided that the Bureau of Statistics (Friends of ECA) shall be created, and its own capacity shall be promoted to ensure especially the success of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses.

Resolution 4

The Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses shall be reviewed and the following instruments shall be adopted:

- a) Standards and structure;*
- b) Census planning and management;*
- c) Census promotion.*

Resolution 5

The African countries present at the Luanda meeting have accepted the invitation made by the Republic of Rwanda to host the Symposium on Statistical Development in January 2007.

Resolution 6

Furthermore, we reaffirm the following resolutions adopted at the Cape Town 2006 Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD), namely:

- a. "All African countries represented at the Symposium agreed that all African States should conduct a census in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in line with the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations on 22 July 2005.*

- b. The symposium recommended that a comprehensive capacity building program be initiated. Such a program should focus on the following areas:*

- i. The capacity of the national statistical agencies in addressing the broad needs of the organisation for survey and statistical skills, project management skills and general management skills. A detailed needs analysis should be done within each agency to guide our regional and continental efforts to develop capacity of the agency;*
 - ii. The need to engage with universities to ensure that appropriate undergraduate and post-graduate programmes are developed to prepare students that can be absorbed by the statistical agencies; and*
 - iii. The need for national statistical agencies to take steps to increase the broad public awareness of its role in society and cultivate a culture of learning in mathematics and statistics amongst Africa's youth and the African population in general.*
- c. Sustainable statistical systems will be developed in Africa by:*
- i. Reversing the decline of African statistical systems partly through census taking;*
 - ii. Improving data coverage and quality for MDGs;*
 - iii. Aligning national statistical systems with the African Union and NEPAD programmes (after the example of the European Union);*
 - iv. Deliberately including gender in national statistical systems;*
 - v. Lobbying governments to invest in reforming their national statistics systems by political support, undertaking legal reforms, institutional reforms, and adequately funding the development of their National Statistical Systems; and*
 - vi. Developing National Statistical Development Plans.*
- d. The symposium acknowledged the range of technical and financial support of the United Nations system funds and programmes, other international agencies, and development partners and exhorts these*

organizations to extend their support to ensure the success of the 2010 round of Population and Housing Censuses. However, the Symposium specifically:

- i. Urges the Economic Commission for Africa to provide critical leadership for the implementation of the 2010 round of Population and Housing Censuses in Africa;*
- ii. Urges United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to provide technical and financial support in census planning and implementation to countries in the promotion of advocacy and resource mobilization for the 2010 round of censuses;*
- iii. Encourages the United Nations Statistics Division to extend its technical support to capacity building in Africa through the establishment of an International Statistics Development Centre;*
- iv. Urges the Economic Commission for Africa to support the south-south cooperation and continue the convening of Symposia on the progress of countries in the implementation of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses; and*
- v. Urges the African Union to include statistics as one of its programme areas and ensure that other regional initiatives, such as NEPAD, have a statistics component.”*

Witnessing what has been stated, we, the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, as well as the present representatives of the National Statistical Offices, duly authorized, unanimously adopt the present Declaration.