



**2006 AFRICA SYMPOSIUM ON STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT**

**“THE 2010 ROUND OF POPULATION AND HOUSING  
CENSUSES”**

**CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

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## SECTION 1

### INTRODUCTION

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The United Nations Statistical Commission at its 36<sup>th</sup> Session, 1-4 March 2005, approved the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses and established an Expert Group to take care of its implementation. The Expert Group, in turn, proposed the formation of working groups and technical subgroups to carry out its mandate.

The main purpose of the Expert Group is to carry out the revision and update of the global *United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (P&R)*. At this point in the process of the preparation of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, all regions, have organized working groups, tasks forces and other meetings, with the collaboration of their member states, to assess their census experiences for the 2000 round as well as to have a regional position on the proposed recommendations with respect to the United Nations *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses.

In a bid to address the glaring lack of contribution and participation of the African continent in the World Programme on 2010 Round of Population & Housing Censuses, South Africa hosted the 2006 Africa Symposium on Statistical Development: 2010 Round of Population & Housing Censuses in Cape Town, 30 January – 2 February 2006. This objective of this Symposium was to:

1. Encourage all African countries to undertaking a population and housing census in the 2010 round of censuses (2005 – 2014);
2. Reach consensus on recommendations on revision of United Nations *Principles and Recommendations* from an African perspective;
3. Reach consensus on core topics and tabulations of relevance to African censuses;
4. Focus and fostering linkages in MDG-related and census campaigns; and,
5. Provide a platform for comprehensive exchange of experiences, countries' participation, technical assistance, information and data dissemination.

To do this the Symposium considered a number of aspects that relate to the following issues:

- Developing sustainable statistical systems in Africa
- Addressing the challenges of statistical development and capacity building in Africa
- Updating the *Principles & Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*:
  - Core Topics and Recommended Tabulations;
  - Standards and Frameworks;
  - Census Planning and Management; and,
  - Promotion of Censuses: Making Value and Visible.

Out of this meeting came a number of key recommendations and resolutions that represent a holistically African position on census taking in Africa in the 2010 round as well as key issues and challenges that confront the continent on national statistical systems and capacity building.

This report therefore outlines some of the key issues that have emanated from the 2006 Symposium.

The Symposium further resolved to birth a tradition of holding annual Africa Symposia on Statistical Development which would seek to redress a situation that will exclude Africa from influencing how the 2010 round of population and housing censuses will improve statistical information for monitoring Africa's development agenda and contribute to global dialogue and development in the continent in the context of NEPAD and African Union initiatives.

Against this backdrop, the main aim of the programme will be to facilitate strengthening the role of African countries in the World Programme on 2010 Population and Housing Censuses; to strengthen collaboration on census-related activities, to develop strategies for African countries to fill the glaring data gaps that limit Africa's ability to monitor progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and finally to promote knowledge management in statistics and the pivotal role statistics plays in the development of the African continent.

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## SECTION 2

### STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

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#### **Keynote Address 1:**

#### **Dr. Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary, UNECA, Address to the 2006 Africa symposium on Statistical Development: The 2010 Round of Census**

The keynote address by Dr. Abdoulie Janneh noted several important facts. Paramount to this was an acknowledgement of statistics as a valuable tool to fight poverty and extremely important in assisting to track development. Evidence-based planning is required as clearly articulated in MDGs, NEPAD and Poverty Reduction Strategies.

African national statistics systems are essential in tracking progress, for evidence based planning and to rectify the unfortunate reality of past where statistical development was largely ignored. They are also essential in reversing the trend of no or poor quality statistics available in Africa to achieve faster economic growth and socio-economic improvement in the lives of Africa's people.

The 2010 Round of population and housing censuses can also provide data for indicators that are essential to measuring and evaluating progress towards the MDGs and the implementation of NEPAD objectives as well as data on the emerging social and policy concerns of African states.

The UNECA has a mandated responsibility to monitor and evaluate the implementation of internationally agreed development goals such as those in Millennium Declaration. UNECA should therefore be actively involved in regional and global process of strengthening population statistical capacity of member States.

Under this mandate UNECA will endeavour to:

1. Coordinate the regional review of a set of accepted international principles and recommendations governing the conduct of censuses in Africa.

2. Conduct expert group meetings and workshops in support of the implementation of these international principles and recommendations;
3. Lead member States to build censuses on critical issues relating to the 2010 round of population and housing censuses;
4. Assist member States, in collaboration with other UN agencies to prepare multipronged “Advocacy Strategies” that will sensitize and create interest in censuses among potential stakeholders;
5. Work with member States to sensitize international donors to the importance of valid statistics, gender disaggregated data, and census data in particular for the development of African countries. This will help mobilize resources that can be used to implement the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses;
6. Support member States in the areas of capacity building in the fields of data collection, utilization and dissemination;
7. Promote South–South cooperation and helping member States to share experience and transfer knowledge at the regional level and sub- region levels;
8. Assist member States to conduct census on a regionally coordinated basis, i.e. Jointly conducting preliminary preparations and the training of personnel; and
9. Promote the use of new technologies in census operations.

Furthermore, UNECA is committed to taking action in collaboration with regional and sub-regional organizations and other stakeholders to help establish reliable National Statistics Systems to meet increased demands for reliable statistics. Already a number of mechanisms are in place to do so. These include:

- The Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA) and the Forum on African Board on Statistical Development (FASDEV) devised to assist in Harmonizing efforts;

And the;

- Annual meeting the Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV) in Addis Ababa (9&10 February 2006) to discuss and adopt a Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Development in Africa.

## **Keynote Address 2:**

### **Honourable Trevor A Manuel MP, Minister of Finance, Address to the 2006 Africa symposium on Statistical Development: The 2010 Round of Censuses**

The 2006 Africa Symposium on Statistical Development: the 2010 Round of Population & Housing Censuses was officially opened by South Africa's Minister of Finance, Mr. Trevor Manuel. He summarized the essence of statistical measurement by the expression: "If you can't measure it, you can't manage it."

Setting the tone for the Symposium, the Minister reflected on the Millennium Declaration, which arose from the Millennium Summit of 2000. The Millennium Declaration emphasized that progress should be based on sustainable economic growth, a focus on the poor, with human rights at the core. In the African context this meant overturning the ravages and excesses of colonialism.

The Millennium Declaration set time-bound (1990-2015) and measurable goals, targets and indicators for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women.

Five years later, in a review of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals made, in September 2005 the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan revealed that MDG findings for Africa were appalling as they highlighted underdevelopment. Similarly, a review of the Report of the Friends of the Chair on the Millennium Development Goals raises similar concerns on the serious quality deficiencies in the data. The Report of the Friends of the Chair to the UN Statistics Commission notes that not only are the data severely limited for Africa but also they are likely to be more misleading than illuminate the lack of progress that might have been made.

The Minister therefore posed two challenges:

1. *How can we continue to lobby the centrality of African Development initiatives if the data we present has little credibility?*

2. *How can we ask governments and donor to direct resources towards areas of need if we cannot empirically establish where the need exist?*

Because of poor political support and inadequate legal structures, National Statistical Systems in Africa are still weak.

There is need to reverse the decline in African statistics – where census taking has been on serious decline and with international organizations taking over estimation of country-level data by inferring information from other countries or from out-of-date surveys.

Noteworthy is the fact that census-taking in Africa has been irregular, incomplete, inaccurate and grossly underutilized, resulting in uninformed policy-making. Evidence-based decision-making and sustainable growth require reliable population and housing censuses; and the main aim of the Symposium is therefore to strengthen the role of African countries in the World Programme of the 2010 population and housing censuses.

These objectives can be achieved by:

- Encouraging all African countries to undertake population and housing censuses in the 2010 round;
- Focusing and fostering linkages in the MDG relates and census campaigns;
- Making a concerted effort to create the necessary capacity; and
- Improving reporting mechanisms between national statistical agencies and international agencies; and
- UNECA getting to champion the 2010 round of Population and Housing Censuses



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## SECTION 3

### **BUILDING SUSTAINABLE STATISTICAL SYSTEMS IN AFRICA**

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#### **Presentation 1:**

#### **Developing Systems of Statistics in Africa: Implications for Regional Integration**

*Pali Lehohla, Statistician-General, Statistics South Africa*

The status of census taking in Africa is limited, with some countries having had no census in the last 50 years and only 52% of countries conducting a census in the 2000 Round of Censuses although the SADC region did a lot better (with 11 of 13 countries taking a census).

The critical concern is the lack of a sound information base to underpin Africa's development effort. The major challenges consist of reversing the decline in census-taking and encouraging participation in the 2010 round of Censuses; and encouraging the use and dissemination of census data with respect to policy development.

The Marrakech Action Plan should be used as one of the initiatives on Africa's statistical development, which together with the 2010 Round of Censuses will help foster good governance, support policy-making and support evidence-based decision-making, assess level of achievement of MDGs, and track progress.

The challenges that remain are capacity building, institutional reform, management and leadership, funding and resource mobilization, electronic access to data, and issues of data quality.

The drive towards regional integration requires a revisit of ECA's blueprint "Statistical Development in Africa: A Strategic Framework" that espouses a strategy engagement of all stakeholders in the process of statistical development.

Models of statistical systems in African countries should embrace:

- The vision of the African Union which promotes accelerated socio-economic integration of the continent; building partnerships between governments and all segments of civil society; and peace security and stability on the continent;
- NEPAD objectives of economic growth and development; reduction in poverty and inequality; increased African integration; African Peer review Mechanism; among others;
- The SADC region's statistical system; and possibly copy the example of the European Statistical System; and
- South Africa's national statistical system question that attempts to answer:
  - Who determines what has to be measured;
  - Who defines what has to be measured;
  - Who determines inputs and who measures them;
  - Who measures outputs;
  - Who measures outcomes; and,
  - Who measures impact?

## **Presentation 2:**

### **Building a Strong National Statistics System in Africa --The Key Role of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses**

*Paul Cheung, United Nations Statistics Division*

The Director of the United Nations Statistics Division, Dr. Paul Chueng, in his presentation gave an overview of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses noting that the programme:

- Has a long history of international cooperation – since 1958;
- Has one round per decade; updates methodological standards; assists countries to conduct at least one census in ten years; and facilitates exchange of knowledge, technical assistance and data dissemination;
- Supports national commitment to census taking as well as resources –updating the *United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*, a major international standard of concepts and definitions and guidelines for collection, processing and tabulation of data;

- Encourages regional cooperation and collaboration through developing common strategies and programmes, and by providing assistance at regional and sub-regional levels with workshops, training, knowledge transfer and joint activities;
- Builds methodological support by providing a metadata database from the 2000 round of Censuses; developing a website to exchange experiences; producing handbooks on specific topics; and assisting in the conduct of the census; and
- Assisting with data dissemination;

In conclusion, he noted that the critical issues to attend to in order to build strong national statistical systems include:

- Improving credibility of and trust in official statistics;
- Enhancing policy relevance;
- Building effective organizational structure;
- Developing a professional culture; and
- Promoting better data dissemination.

### **Presentation 3:**

#### **Countries' Capacity to Monitor MDG Indicators: Focus on Africa**

*Paul Cheung, Director, United Nations Statistics Division*

A second paper presented by Dr. Chueng was the findings of the Report of The Friends of the Chair MDGs. This report was an assessment of countries' capacities to monitor MDG indicators. The focus was on the ability of countries to produce data on MDG indicators.

As a background, Friends of the Chair is a group of chief statisticians from national statistics offices, formed at the 36<sup>th</sup> meeting of the United Nations Statistical Commission, to provide guidance on the assessment of countries' capacities to monitor MDG indicators.

The assessment exercise was undertaken under the guidance of the Friends of the Chair, and was based on available country-level data in the international community and feedback from national Statistics Offices.

The assessment indicates that:

- Country data in Africa are available for most of the indicators but less frequently than in other regions; and,
- There is lack of data in some crucial areas such as employment.

Discussion on countries' capacities is scheduled to take place at the next Statistical Commission in March 2006.

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## SECTION 4

### ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF CAPACITY BUILDING IN AFRICA

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This session sought to address four key challenges to statistical development in Africa:

1. The Challenge of Capacity Building
2. The Challenge of Institutional Reform
3. The Challenge of Leadership and Management
4. The Challenge of Funding and Resource Mobilization

#### CHALLENGE 1: STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING IN AFRICA

##### **Presentation 1:**

##### **The Importance of Statistical Capacity Building in the context of Knowledge Management Africa**

*Dr. Snowy Khoza, Development Bank of South Africa*

The presentation on the importance of statistical capacity building in the context of Knowledge Management Africa focused on three themes, namely Knowledge Management Africa (KMA) – an agency affiliated with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA); importance of capacity building as part of knowledge management; and a case of institutionalization of capacity development.

Knowledge management has limited impact on development in Africa and that it was illusive, as it has be harnessed through networking. KMA provided a platform for knowledge sharing, and its role showcases knowledge innovations and case studies; facilitate networking facilities; and provide opportunities to share experience.

KMA's plan of action includes: a continental assessment of knowledge institutions; case studies on good practices; establishing networks; mobilizing African knowledge institutions; piloting programmes; publishing proceedings of KMA conferences into an Africa Knowledge Review Journal; and holding biannual KMA conferences.

Statistical capacity building in Africa is important because Africa loses knowledge workers to other continents, and is usually not in a position to own the capacity building exercises that happen on it.

KMA advocates "second-generation capacity building" as opposed to conventional approaches over the past two decades that are generally designed and executed by donor agencies."

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By way of a conclusion:

- KMA is to make statistical capacity building a standing agenda; and,
- The KMA portal it to feature reviews statistical development progress in Africa; and the East African pilot programme on integrated policymaking, including reinforced national statistics, is to be extended to southern and western Africa.

## **Presentation 2:**

### **Key Issues and Challenges for Gender Inclusive African National Statistical Systems and Capacity Building.**

*Dr. Alfred Latigo, UNECA*

The purpose of the presentation is to discuss the lack of a comprehensive system to prepare gender-disaggregated statistics of household production [National Satellite Accounts of Household Production (NSAHP)] as a significant data gap in African National Statistical System and therefore a major bottleneck at both national and regional levels in the process of designing, monitoring and evaluating policies and strategies such as poverty reduction strategies and MDGs.

It outlines ECA role and on-going activities to redress this situation through supporting initially selected African countries in collecting regular gender-disaggregated data (GDD) on household production through regular household time use surveys with the aim of developing African System of NSAHP that speak directly to PRS and MDGs.

Gender inclusive African Statistical Systems are important because:

- The largest data gaps in African National Statistical Systems are gender-disaggregated data in household production.
- The United Nations has recommended that each country produce a framework for gender statistics, with the assistance of the Economic Commission for Africa
- The need for African National Statistical Systems to develop a harmonized continent-wide time use surveys to enable economies of scale to be achieved in coding, editing, tabulation, publication and preparation of data.

Gender-related issues in African Statistical Systems are such that:

- Most African countries lack a comprehensive plan to prepare gender-disaggregated statistics on household production (HP) needed to help understand, develop, implement, monitor and evaluate social and economic policies. Consequently, national statistical systems in Africa exclude enormous volume of HP, which is estimated to be 50% of the total economy/GDP.
- Development proponents perceive the omission of HP in economic analysis as a missed opportunity in ending poverty. HP needs to be measured not just because it is a sector that has been ignored, but is considered as a growing sector that is on an equal footing with the market economy.
- Because of lack of GDD, various official publications, such as economic reports, annual financial statements, government budget estimates, agricultural statistical bulletins, and external trade statistics reports do not reflect a consistent framework of gender-disaggregated information, although some national reports have marginal data analysis with gender distinction. Yet, household economics have played an important role in economic analysis and policy formulation in developed countries, as well as for developing statistical systems

The household production as described in the NSAHP comprises two major categories - unpaid work within the SNA production boundary and unpaid work that is outside the SNA boundary.

Unpaid work within the SNA production boundary includes:

- Work done in a family enterprise or agricultural holding on an unpaid basis to produce products that are marketed; and,
- Work done to produce goods for household's own consumption: production of crops and livestock, basic food processing, gathering firewood and fetching water; making tools, utensil and clothes; constructing housing.

Unpaid work outside the SNA boundary includes all non-market items such as:

- Meal preparation, laundry and clothes care, cleaning and household maintenance, and shopping;
- Care of children, the sick, elderly and disabled within the household; and,
- Volunteer services provided through organisations, groups or households.

In terms of where we are with gender-disaggregated statistics, Time Use Surveys (TUS) are emerging as a very useful statistical tool to generate data on how individuals spend their time. TUS have become common in other regions but only 6 African countries have undertaken TUS because new concept, tools and human & financial resources.

ECA has contributed to a gender inclusive statistical system by addressing this serious data gap. ECA's 2001–05 programme on production and use of gender-disaggregated statistics focused on four areas:

- Advocacy to garner support of governments and partners to invest in reform of National Statistical System to undertake TUS to generate gender disaggregated data (GDD);
- Development of tools to measure and integrate unpaid work in national planning instruments and policies;
- To build capacity of national experts to use tools developed; and
- To backstop the implementation of TUS to generate GDD.

As a first step, the thinking of development that stakeholders need to change is to recognize and commit resources to household production as a sector that is of equal footing with market economy. National Statistical Systems have inadequate human and financial resources to generate



gender-disaggregated statistics. Therefore, there is a critical need to strengthen the capacities of African statisticians and national accounts officers through the institutionalization of production of gender-disaggregated statistics as well as use of accurate time use data, intra-household data, in policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

As a way forward, there are two issues to note:

- Firstly, African National Statistical Systems can be gender inclusive only if there is commitment to generate gender-disaggregated statistics of household production in order to regularly extend the core National Accounts so that development efforts are based on total economy.
- Secondly, as a policy, African Governments should commit resources to their National Statistical Systems to introduce regular time use studies to generate gender-disaggregated statistics that speak directly to contemporary development efforts including the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and MDGs.

As a final note, people can be poor in terms of both time and money. Time burden reduces productivity and investment opportunities. Time is money and is equivalent to labour input.

## **CHALLENGE 2: INSTITUTIONAL REFORM**

### **Institutional Reform in Statistical Office (CSO): Case of Zambia**

*Dr. Buleti Nsemukila, National Statistical Office, Zambia*

The purpose of the presentation was to illustrate the process of reform undertaken by the Zambian statistical office. It also notes how legislation can be a hindrance to change (or reform) if it is not updated to suit present situations.

As background to the presentation:

- Legislation has not been completely adequate in addressing the institutional reform process;
- Institutional arrangements have placed the CSO under the Ministry of Finance;

- The Director is appointed by the Public Service Commission and is responsible to the Minister in line with the Act; and,
- There are four divisions in the CSO - Economic & Financial, Social, Agriculture, Information Research and Dissemination. Additional support units are Administration, Accounts, Internal Audits, Security and Field Surveys.

The reason for change is fivefold – an increased demand for statistical data; the Transitional National Development Plan (TNDP) lacks systematic performance techniques; the threat of multiple but uncoordinated producers of statistics; unstructured human development plan high staff turn over; and an outdated legal framework.

As a response to change:

- In 1991 Zambia introduced a multiparty political system for transparency; and started public service programmes;
- It was recognized that NSS needed further strengthening for formulation and monitoring of effective development plans; and,
- In 1996 Minister of Finance made an assurance that the CSO would be made a semi-autonomous bureau of statistics, and would revise and update existing statistics, which is still in progress.

There are three main challenges:

- A draft Strategic Plan was developed in 2002, but not a strategic plan for the NSS;
- Implementation is constrained by a change of stance by the government considering experiences of departments that transformed into agency status; and
- There is reluctance by the Cabinet Office to only change remuneration for the CSO.

A possible route to take to effect change involves:

- Reorganizing the NSS in the context of changes in the Public Service;
- Adopting a Statistical Policy Council appointed by Ministers to give direction to the NSS; and
- Adoption of resource mobilization initiatives by the CSO to supplement staff remuneration above Civil Services Conditions.

In conclusion:

- It is important to integrate statistical strategy as a component of the PRSP and National Development Plans;
- “One Size fits all” national strategies for development of statistics (Nodes) are unlikely to develop national statistical system effectively; and
- Other countries’ models (such as those of Uganda and Tanzania) of semi-autonomous statistical systems might be exemplary or might give us some ideas on way forward.

### **CHALLENGE 3: LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **Success and constraints to effective strategic management: A Case Study of Mozambique**

*Dr. Joao Loureiro, INE, Republic of Mozambique*

The purpose of the presentation was to illustrate the successes and constraints to effective strategic management in Mozambique. The Mozambique National Statistics System (SEN) Strategic Plan was developed for the period 2003-2007 and was informed by prior documents including the SEN Master Plan, the General Guidelines and Priorities and the SEN Strategic Plan and National Statistics Plan for 1998-2002. The SEN Strategic Plan establishes the general framework for statistical activity in Mozambique in coordination with other institutions, in the process of collecting, processing and disseminating statistical series.

The objectives of SEN as identified in the Strategic Plan are:

- To deliver official statistical information timely and with quality, answering the user’s needs with a particular towards Government Programmes;
- To capacitate the producers of official statistics;
- Consolidate and coordinate statistics producers; and,
- Consolidate and develop a comprehensive sustainable NSS

The SEN strategic plan is guided by the Statistics Act (No 7 of 5 July 1996) in order to ensure the lawfulness of the process. The Act identifies the vision, mission context, adherences from all stakeholders (NSO, NSO delegated organs, the Central Bank and Co-operate partners), their mandate and main activities.

The contents of the strategic plan include guidelines and priorities and the organizational mode.

Guidelines and priorities provide the general description of the organization and the description of the processes. The key areas include:

- Definition of basic structure of the organization and strategic priorities;
- Definition of general diagnosis, vision, mission, objectives and record of the main strategies to be developed for the accomplishment of the defined objectives; and,
- The Poverty Monitoring System of the country, which is wholly reflected in the SEN Strategic Plan, stating clearly the role of SEN and in particular of the National Statistics Office (INE)

The organizational mode identifies role players in the statistical processes, especially a Technical Committee that addresses issues of integration coordination and external relations with regard to planning.

In terms of the success of Mozambique's NSS, the following observations were made:

- The success of the NSS is because of the Statistics Act which provided for a centralized statistics system that gives power for the Statistics Office to coordinate all statistical activities;
- The success also depends on the strong political support provided;
- In addition, the plan is client oriented which makes it relevant; the government relies on statistics to promote democracy and transparency; and there is an effort to involve all stakeholders;
- The NSS makes sure that its activities are aligned to national development priorities, regional priorities (NEPAD, SADC) and the MDGs;
- The NSS is investing a lot in its image, by producing reliable and timely statistics resulting in stakeholder trust.

- SEN has established a steering committee comprising of senior officials of all cooperate departments involved in statistical activities. This is to ensure that the concerns of all parties are satisfied.

#### **CHALLENGE 4: FUNDING AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

##### *Addressing Challenges of Statistical Development in Africa: Uganda's Experience*

*Mr. John Male-Mukasa, National Central Office, Uganda*

The presentation noted four types of challenges – capacity building, institutional reforms; leadership and management; and funding and resource mobilization.

The challenges are inter-related and some confound one another, and efforts to address them should take into account the inter-relationships between them.

**Statistical development** refers to improvement in quality, quantity and use of statistical data and information. On the other hand, *funding and resource mobilization* refers to the process of planning and budgeting for undertaking statistical activities.

There are six main challenges of funding statistical activities:

- Low appreciation given to statistics and statistical production by some key users (government agencies, the private sector, etc.);
- Increasing demand for statistics and information which is not matched by willingness to pay for it;
- The high cost of statistical production whose outputs are not easily visible;
- Intricacies of Coordinating multiple sources (national and international) of funding;
- Absence of properly costed master plans for national statistical development; for example, UBOS has a five-year Corporate Plan which does NOT cover the entire NSS while statistical activities of key sectoral ministries are funded separately under the ministry budget; and
- Irregular resource flows from government

The main recommendations proposed on funding and resource mobilization are:

- Development of National Statistical Development Plans are a MUST for Africa;
- National governments should stand up to the challenge of funding statistical development by providing resources for PNSD implementation; and
- While statistics is a ‘public good’ utilized by the private sector in decision-making, the private sector should be encouraged to contribute towards its production.

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## SECTION 5

### RESOLUTIONS MADE ON STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

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The 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2006 marks the end of the 2006 Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) held in Cape Town, South Africa. The focus of this historic meeting was five-fold:

1. To encourage all African countries to undertake a population and housing census in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses;
2. To reach consensus on recommendations on the revision of the United Nations Principles & Recommendations from an African Perspective;
3. To reach consensus on core topics and tabulations of relevance to African censuses;
4. To focus and foster linkages in MDG-related statistical activities and census campaigns; and,
5. To provide a platform for comprehensive exchange of experiences countries' participation, technical assistance, information and data dissemination.

The 2006 Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) was indeed a historic event for the statistical community in Africa as forty-three African countries met to deliberate on issues of statistical development and the challenges that are posed for the national statistical office in Africa.

This high participation rate being noteworthy in itself – focused on the discussion of purpose, planning and management of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses and this means for people in Africa. Beyond the signaling of how important the census is, by making the effort to attend, delegates participated actively in sharing experiences and challenges facing their countries.

The continued dialogue amongst African statistical agencies can only improve our census taking, as well as signaling to our governments and citizens how important the conducting of a census is. We should seek and create opportunities to continue this dialogue and advocate the value of census derived information, to encourage the mobilization of resources need.

Through working in concert, African statistical agencies should be more effective in promoting census taking, which has the ability to capture the imagination of policy makers, funders and citizens alike, because of the sheer scale and inclusivity of the operation involved. Resources mobilized for the undertaking of a census may also contribute to the building of infrastructure and capacity for intercensal statistical collections.

We as African statisticians therefore, seized by the demand for development information and imperatives of regional integration and the information that supports such regional integration seek to address four challenges:

- Capacity building in Africa;
- Institutional Reform;
- Leadership and Management; and,
- Advocacy and Resource Mobilization.

We have taken note of subsequent meetings we have held for the 2000 round of population and housing censuses at a smaller scale in South Africa in 2001 on census costs, in South Africa in 2003 on census dissemination and for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses in Cameroon in 2005 on advocacy and resource mobilization and the decision that emanated out of that to meet in 2006 in South Africa.

Based on the **2006 Africa Symposium on Statistical Development: The 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses** which was held in Cape Town, South Africa on 30 January – 2 February 2006, delegates at the Symposium representing national statistical agencies from forty-three (43) African countries, including representatives of the regional bodies and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) resolved the following:



**Resolution 1**

In line with the recommendations that have come out of this meeting on the 2010 round of Population and Housing Censuses, and recommendations from Africa on the revision to the United Nations Principles and Recommendations, it is recommended that the African statistical community meet on an annual basis to further deliberate on current but key issues as they affect statistics and the socio-economic and political economy of our continent in the context of NEPAD and the mandate of the African Union.

**Resolution 2**

All African countries represented at the Symposium represented agreed that all African States should conduct a census in 2010 round of population and housing censuses in line with the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nation on 22 July 2005.

**Resolution 3**

The Symposium recommended that a comprehensive capacity building program be initiated. Such a program should focus on the following areas:

- a. The capacity of the national statistical agencies in addressing the broad needs of the organization from 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;
- b. The need to engage with universities to ensure that appropriate undergraduate and post-graduate programs are developed to prepare students that can be absorbed by the statistical agencies; and,
- c. 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.

#### **Resolution 4**

Sustainable statistical systems will be developed in Africa by:

- a. Reversing the decline of African statistical systems partly through census taking;
- b. Improving data coverage and quality for MDGs;
- c. Aligning National Statistical Systems with the African Union and NEPAD programmes (after the example of the European Union);
- d. Deliberately including gender in National Statistical Systems;
- e. Lobbying governments to invest in reform their National Statistics Systems by political support, undertaking legal reforms, institutional reforms, and adequately funding the development of their National Statistical Systems; and
- f. Developing National Statistical Development Plans.

#### **Resolution 5**

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:

- a. Urges the Economic Commission for Africa to provide critical leadership for the implementation of the 2010 round of Population and Housing Censuses in Africa;
- b. Urges 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;
- c. Encourages the United Nations Statistics Division to extend its technical support to capacity building in Africa through the establishment of International Statistics Development Centre;

- d. Urges the ECA 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
- e. Urge the African Union to include statistics as one of its programme areas and ensure that other regional initiatives such as the NEPAD have a statistics component.

A recommendation is made to AU and ECA that Peer Review mechanism be extended to the review of statistical development and in particular for the implementation of population census, to promote the sharing of experiences and information on good practices in the conduct of censuses.

#### **Resolution 6**

To encourage institutional reform in Africa,

- a. The Symposium recognized the need for appropriate institutional arrangement, and to this end would ensure that in each country legislation will be reviewed against the UN Handbook on Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.
- b. Where appropriate African regional bodies will develop protocols to guide the implementation of institutional reforms.

#### **Resolution 7**

The coordination role of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa needs to be strengthened. It was resolved that:

- a. A Bureau of Statistics or “Friends of the ECA” be established. The following countries will constitute the interim structure to advise the Executive Secretary of the ECA on matters of statistical development in Africa:

- Mozambique
- South Africa
- Uganda
- Kenya
- Rwanda
- Egypt
- Tunisia
- Senegal
- Ghana

- b. The ECA must develop its own capacity to fulfill the co-ordination role envisaged by the Symposium.
- c. ECA must promote the preparations for 2010 round of Population and Housing Censuses and must prepare a report on the state of readiness of all countries on the continent by January 2007 and follow up report each of the following years.

#### **Resolution 8**

The Symposium reviewed the UN *Principles and Recommendations for Population & Housing Censuses* (Revision 1) and adopted a set of recommendations after extensive discussion in breakaway groups and approval in full plenary on the following areas:

- d. Standards and frameworks
- e. Census planning and management
- f. Promotion of Censuses: Making value visible

These recommendations are outlined in detail in Document **ASSD2006/02**.

#### **Resolution 9**

By endorsing the tradition of annual African Symposia on Statistical Development, African countries present accepted the invitation of the Republic of Rwanda to host the **2007 Africa Symposium on Statistical Development** in January 2007.