

# NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS



## 2006 AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY CELEBRATION IN NIGERIA: 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER, 2006

**Federal Republic of Nigeria  
November, 2006**

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## 2006 AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY CELEBRATION IN NIGERIA: 18<sup>TH</sup> – 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER, 2006

**Theme:** “NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS: MAINSTREAMING STATISTICS WITHIN POLICY PROCESSES AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES”

### PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

9.00 – 10.00am	Registration of participants
10.00 – 10.30am	Welcome Address – Director-General, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)
10.30 – 11.00am	Keynote Address – Economic Adviser to the President & CEO of National Planning Commission (NPC)
11.00 – 11.30am	Tea/Coffee Break
11.30 – 12.30pm	<b>PUBLIC LECTURE/PAPER PRESENTATION</b>
<b>Chairman:</b>	Economic Adviser to the President and CEO (NPC)
<b>Paper:</b>	“National Strategies for the Development of Statistics: Mainstreaming Statistics within Policy Processes and National Development Programmes and Strategies; The Case of Nigeria”.
<b>Presenter:</b>	Mr. O.O Ajayi (a renowned Statistician/International Consultant and former Director-General, Federal Office of Statistics).
12.30 – 1.30pm	Questions and Answers
1.30 – 2.30pm	Buffet/Lunch
2.30 – 2.35p.m	Vote of Thanks – Okomayin Sj Mayaki, Director (CPTC), NBS.

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS, DR. V. O. AKINYOSOYE,  
DURING THE AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY CELEBRATION  
ON 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER, 2006**

**Your Excellency,  
The Economic Adviser to the President and  
Chief Executive, National Planning Commission,  
Representative of International Agencies,  
Permanent Secretaries,  
Directors-General,  
Gentlemen of the Press,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am highly delighted to welcome you all to this event. This year's Public Lecture is one of the key events in the 2006 celebration of African Statistics Day, which has been set aside by United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to raise statistical awareness throughout the continent.

This year's theme "National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS): Mainstreaming Statistics within Policy Processes and National Development Programmes and Strategies" is timely and of immense importance as 2006 constitutes the deadline for the design of the NSDS as agreed upon by African Countries. It is therefore imperative to raise awareness of producers, users, suppliers of statistics and the population as a whole on the importance of participating in the design and implementation of our country's NSDS.

NBS as the apex statistical organization involved in the data production in the country must lead the way in designing appropriate strategies for the development of statistical operations in the country. The idea is to make the agency a national information resource centre capable of providing reliable statistics for evidence-based policy decision needed for the orderly development of the Nigerian society. In this regard, NBS is working with the states to develop their Statistical Master Plans for incorporation into the NSDS. In future the exercise will extend to the development of statistical operations at the Local Government level to capture statistical information at the wards and household levels on routine basis. The agency hereby wishes to appreciate the huge investments of the Federal Government and the World Bank, DFID, AFDB, EU and UNDP in the last 18 months. Their supports have greatly improved the operations of NBS and preparing it to become one of the most modern and effective National Statistics Office in Africa, and indeed the world.

The Economic Adviser, Ladies and Gentlemen, the choice of the speaker for today is well-thought out because he is a distinguished international statistician, a former Director-General of our office and someone who has passion for statistics.

NBS wants to serve the society better through the effective discharge of its statutory responsibilities and your positive contributions during the course of this lecture will assist NBS achieve its mandate and it should also serve as an advocacy medium for statistics in our country.

I thank you indeed for your attention.

**National Bureau of Statistics**

**Abuja.**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE ECONOMIC  
ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER, NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, DR OSITA  
OGBU, DURING THE AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY,  
21 NOVEMBER, 2006.**

**The Director - General, National Bureau of Statistics,**

**Chief Executives of Government Ministries,  
Departments & Agencies (MDAs),**

**Distinguished Participants,**

**Gentlemen of the press,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to address this gathering of distinguished people at this important public lecture. I am indeed delighted to note that this occasion was planned as a grand finale of the celebration of the African Statistics Day. The African Statistics Day (ASD) is a yearly advocacy tool aimed at raising awareness of the importance of Statistics in the economic and social development of Africa. The event which is celebrated every year on 18 November was initiated by United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). I understand that the theme of the 2006 African Statistics Day is **“National Strategies for the Development of Statistics: “Mainstreaming Statistics within Policy Processes and National Development Programmes and Strategies”**. There is no doubt that this theme was well thought out, particularly, as there is currently the need to develop statistical systems in countries within the African continent to support development processes.

2. Indeed, the 2006 celebration is in line with an aspect of the vision of the present democratic Government of Nigeria which is devoted to raising awareness on the importance of reliable statistical production processes and usage for evidence – based policy decisions. Thus, the design of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) as a new tool in statistical planning is aimed at facilitating the development of statistics in a coordinated manner using modern management principles which stresses on the free flow of information and ideas, teamwork, innovation, creativity, and innovativeness in statistical work. In this regard, I note with satisfaction that the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the apex statistical agency in Nigeria in collaboration with other data producing agencies is already putting in place necessary infrastructure that would facilitate the production of basic statistical information capable of meeting the expectations of the nation under the present democratic dispensation and indeed monitoring of progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). I, therefore, wish to commend NBS for ensuring that this year's ASD is celebrated in Nigeria through this important forum. I believe the forum will help to come out with ideas that would help to strengthen the development of statistics in Nigeria.

3. As you are already aware, for the first time in history, in the 1990's, a diverse range of players across the globe agreed on a common platform of priorities for addressing the many faces of extreme poverty, hunger, joblessness, disease and lack of housing, to gender inequality and environmental decline. In this regard, African countries and development partners recognized the need for better statistics not only as a tool for evidence-based policy design and planning but also to better support policy

implementation, monitor progress and evaluate outcomes and impacts of development initiatives such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), and the New partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). At this point, it is important to emphasize that, the NSDS is a strategic plan that provides a framework for building the statistical capacity of a country to meet both current and future data needs by mainstreaming statistics within policy processes and national development programmes and projects. In Nigeria, NBS and indeed all other producers of data have an important role to play in the creation and development of a virile National Statistical System. Thus, I enjoin all stakeholders including line ministries, private sector representatives, academia and researchers, the civil society, donors, international organizations, and the general public to take an active part in the entire process. Development partners are urged to reflect these processes in their assistance programmes and place their support to statistics within the context of the NSDS. On our part, let me assure you of Government's support in ensuring the success of the entire process.

4. Furthermore, I wish to use this opportunity to urge all users of statistics to effectively collaborate with the producers of statistical information to enable the desired results to be attained. In this regard, the use of data should form an essential element in your decision-making process as timely statistical information is expected to provide a basis for decision making in the governance of the country. Statistical information could equally serve as an important tool for championing the course of users in every sphere of endeavour, particularly, in the areas of poverty alleviation and crime/security



related aspects of the economy. In addition, it is important to note that production of Statistics is not only time consuming but time sensitive. For this reason,, users of data should endeavour to assist NBS as well as other data producers of statistics to resolve the paradox by providing accurate information and responding promptly to all statistical enquiries/surveys.

5. Before concluding this address, I wish to express my profound gratitude and appreciation to the African Development Bank (ADB) for offering to provide support for the development of statistics within the African Continent. I hope that today's forum would address the various challenges in the Nigerian Statistical System which will provide the way forward for better effective statistical delivery, in the country. It is equally my sincere belief that the forum will come out with appropriate and improved method of data production in Nigeria including the application of modern ICT tools.

6. While I look forward to your recommendations and conclusions, I wish you fruitful and successful deliberations.

7. Thank you for your attention.

**Economic Adviser to the President  
& Chief Executive Officer,  
National Planning Commission,  
21 November, 2006**

**PAPER PRESENTED**

**NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS (NSDS):  
MAINSTREAMING STATISTICS WITH  
POLICY PROCESSES AND NATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES**

**BY**

***O. O. AJAYI***

*INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL CONSULTANT*

**NOVEMBER 21, 2006**

# **NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS (NSDS): MAINSTREAMING STATISTICS WITHIN POLICY PROCESSES AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES – THE CASE FOR NIGERIA**

## **1.0. INTRODUCTION**

The society in general and governments in particular need good statistics as official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the government, the economy and society with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situations. In developing countries like ours, the need is even greater and more important because resources are very limited requiring good statistics to ensure effective and efficient utilization of these scarce resources.

**1.2.** Compared with a decade or more ago, there is now greater emphasis, both in developing countries and the international community, on evidence-based policy-making. Since statistics is about the truth and being evidence by nature, the process of policy formulation and decision-making is statistics intensive. Good statistics provide a basis for good decision-making, help governments to identify the best courses of action in addressing complex problems, are essential to manage the effective delivery of basic services, and are an indispensable, core requirement for accountability and transparency. Indeed good statistics are a core component of good governance. Availability and proper use of good statistics lead to good design, management, monitoring and evaluation of national policy frameworks such as Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS's) and for

measurement and monitoring of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's). Clearly therefore, good statistics are part of the enabling environment for development: they measure inputs, outputs, outcomes and impact, providing reliable assessments of key economic and social indicators, covering all aspects of development from measures of economic output and price inflation, to the well-being of the people. Why statistics? It is simply because statistics are the eyes of policy-makers as eloquently stated by Keith Muhakanizi of Uganda and that sound data represent a key weapon in the battle against poverty as well said by Tadao Chino, President of Asian Development Bank.

**1.3.** What is clearly emerging from the above is that better statistics lead to better policy and better development outcomes. Making the transition to evidence-based policy-making can best be achieved through formulating a National Strategy for the Development of statistics (NSDS), which is fully integrated into national policy processes.

## **2.0. CHALLENGES OF DEVELOPMENT FACING AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

Africa must change its description from a forgotten continent to a steadily developing continent by frontal attack on the problems of development. The following represent some of the challenges, namely: good governance, poverty reduction, achieving Millennium Development Goals, implementing the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) with components such as employment issues, HIV/AIDS issues, growth performance, sectoral priorities (Infrastructure, Human Resources development, Agriculture,

Education, Health and Environment, etc), regional integration, gender equality, integration into the global economy and much more.

To come closer home and to be more specific on the problems of development in Nigeria, the following are relevant and of concern:

- Monitoring of implementation and evaluation of National Empowerment and Economic Development Strategies (NEEDS) and its versions for States, Local Government Areas and Communities (i.e. SEEDS, LEEDS, CEEDS);
- Sectoral Programmes of Education, Health, Agriculture, Environment, Mining, Justice and rule of law, infrastructure improvement and development (roads, water supply, electricity generation and distribution, communications etc);
- Employment issues;
- HIV/AIDS issues;
- Achieving MDG's;
- Transparency and accountability in governance with special attention to reduction in corruption level;

and many more.

These challenges facing African countries and in particular Nigeria can profitably be translated into statistical challenges for the continent and specifically our country knowing the power of good statistics in solving such complex problems as we face today. The challenge is in translating the situations into data by first understanding the situation and with all actors (decision-makers, Statisticians etc) working together, relevant data to be collected can be identified; collected data are then analyzed to give information with knowledge and understanding of the situation washing out

of the derived information. Evidence based actions and policy will consequently be undertaken. Going by this cycle of interaction between policy formulation, development processes and generation of statistical information, there is no doubt that statistical development is intrinsically and inevitably interwoven with development processes. Any country, or any entity at all that wants orderly development and growth requires to give top priority to statistical development as a first charge towards its developmental goals. This is a strong reason for adopting strategic approach to developing national statistics, mainstreamed with policy processes such as PRS (NEEDS in the case of Nigeria) and sectoral approaches. This goes to demonstrate why governments, society in general, and development partners need good statistics and why strategic approach is beneficial so as to ensure sustainability and irreversibility of statistical development.

### **3.0. EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH IN TACKLING THE DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGES**

Evidence-based policy-making means that, public policy decisions should be informed by careful analysis using sound and transparent data. More specifically, it may be defined as the systematic and rigorous use of statistics to:

- Achieve issue recognition;
- Inform programme design and policy choice;
- Forecast the future;
- Monitor policy implementation;
- Evaluate policy impact.

There are two important conditions required to bring about statistics playing this very important roles and these are regular availability of quality, comprehensive data timely delivered and voracious use of the provided information to inform policy decision-making. The relationship between data and policy processes is much broader than monitoring and evaluation but to note that policy outcomes and statistical procedures in several upstream stages of policy formulation as indicated above.

Unfortunately, in Africa and at country-level criteria other than those associated with evidence-based policy-making are often used to make public choices. These alternative criteria include:

- ✓ Power and influence of sectoral interest;
- ✓ Corruption;
- ✓ Political ideology;
- ✓ Arbitrariness;
- ✓ Anecdotes.

And use of these negative criteria nearly always leads to disastrous anti-people policies and lack of development. Evidence –based policy-making is the only way of taking public policy decisions which is fully consistent with a democratic political process characterized by transparency and accountability. It is therefore necessary and particularly crucial to strengthen the evidence-base of policy-making in Africa and indeed in our country, Nigeria, at this very moment because of the need to:

- ✓ Track progress towards the MDG’s and monitor advances towards the targets of NEEDS, SEEDS, LEEDS and CEEDS;

- ✓ Make available reliable and timely statistical information for more sophisticated analysis and data demanding methods of policy analysis;
- ✓ Respond to the revolution in information and communications technology which has weakened the public sector's control of information and increased pressure on governments to explain and justify their actions.

Good policy requires good statistics at different stages of the policy-making process, and that investment in better statistics can generate high social returns and good economic sense. What has to be done therefore is to embark on vigorous statistical capacity building through the development of National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) which should be an integral part of the National Development Plan as a way of linking policy people with the Statisticians and as a way of enhancing proper analysis and interpretation to be given to data sets and as a way of promoting evidence-based policy-making. Certainly evidence-based policy-making is desirable as it enhances the transparency of policy-making and equally enhances accountability of policy-makers. Consequently, trust in governments is enhanced as private firms and households can form reasonable expectations about how the government is likely to behave under given circumstances in the future. Many examples are abound across countries to demonstrate the desirability of evidence-based decision-making and the value of statistics in enhancing policy analysis, policy design and policy outcomes across a wide range of sectors. Some country examples given immediately will suffice: In Ghana, revelation from survey results plus rigorous poverty analysis showed regional disparity in poverty levels leading to regional actions requiring setting regional poverty reduction targets. Another example was in Uganda



where primary education expenditures were tracked revealing that only 13% of the non-wage funds allocated for such items as the purchase of books reached the schools. But with proper tracking, the results of the new system were dramatic. The fund that reached the school level rose from 13% in 1991-5 to between 80% and 90% in 1999-2000. The resultant effect was that there was increased flow of funds to primary schools by as much as US\$18.5 million.

In Nigeria, some two decades ago, there was falling percentage of immunized children under Expanded Programme of Immunization as revealed by a monitoring survey conducted twice. This led to a thorough review of the system for immunization which uncovered poor management of the system and mis-use of the equipment like the cold storage facility and vehicles. The system was modified and immunization rate shot up under a revamped National Programme of Immunization. These are the types of dramatic results that could take place on programmes and policies once there are evidences on which we are willing to take actions.

#### **4.0. STATE OF STATISTICS IN THE COUNTRIES OF AFRICA AND THE NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT**

In many countries of Africa, policy and decision makers have not recognized the strategic importance of statistics. Statistics in those countries ranks low among government priorities and as a consequence the NSS's have been poorly resourced leading to inadequate supply of statistics to users in terms of quantity, quality and timeliness. Also there has been little involvement, if any, of National Statistical Offices in national policy formulation.

Indeed, these countries in Africa vary greatly in the quantity and quality of information available to policy-makers, and in the extent to which this information is used. Four groups of countries can be distinguished, namely:

- Vicious circle countries;
- Data supply-constrained countries;
- Data demand-constrained countries;
- Virtuous circle countries.

In the first group of countries, statistics are of poor quality, and both the supply of and the demand for statistics are low. For the second group of countries, although statistics are weak they are increasingly being used by policy-makers while in the third group, the quantity and quality of statistics are improving, but they are not used for decision-making because decision-makers lack the incentives or the capacity to use them. In all these three groups of countries there is a need to increase both the demand and supply of statistics and to improve linkages between data systems and national policy by enhancing dialogue between data users and producers. Countries should, however, strategically move towards the fourth group – the virtuous circle, where statistics are improving and increasingly being used for decision-making. These two processes – the improvement of statistics and their growing use by decision-makers – reinforce each other, resulting in better policy design and better development outcomes. The design of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) is necessary to correct the data situation in these countries, noting that the priorities for building statistical capacity and for promoting evidence-based policy-making will vary among these different groups.

## **5.0. NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS THROUGH NSDS TO ACHIEVE EVIDENCE-BASE POLICY PROCESS**

The NSDS is a framework for strategic improvement of statistics as enunciated in the four typologies of countries described in the section immediately above. The NSDS will satisfy certain principles and meet the information requirements for designing, monitoring and evaluating: Poverty Reduction Strategies, MDG's and other national development strategies. The NSDS is both a product and process. The product being the document detailing assessment of current status of the NSS, sets of objectives for improving the NSS over a medium-to long-term period and addressing relevant legal and institutional issues, identifying technical assistance and capacity building programme and estimating the costs of implementing the strategy and setting out how these costs will be financed. The process, on the other hand, requires that the elaboration of a NSDS will be consultative and participatory in order to mobilize support, build country ownership and obtain political commitment from all stakeholders to reform and improve the statistical system. Those involved will include a variety of user groups, such as government agencies, the private sector, civil society, the media, donors, international organizations, as well as several producers of statistics, such as the NSO, the Central Bank and line ministries. Normally, this will not mean "business as usual". Managing for results may require a "change of mindset" towards statistics for development.

The NSDS should normally be integrated into national development policy processes and context, taking into account regional and international commitments. NSDS should have political support and commitment and be

championed by high-level official(s), be demand-focused and priorities for information to enable national governments to manage results. Also NSDS should aim at developing statistics as a public good and funded from government budgets and complemented (when possible) by international support. The NSDS design should be comprehensive and coherent and provide the basis for the sustainable development of statistics with quality (i.e. fit-for-purpose) and should cover the entire NSS including data collection, analysis, dissemination and use as well as mechanism for coordination and consultation. It should also serve as a coherent framework for international and bilateral assistance for statistics and should avoid parallel systems for monitoring and evaluation needs generally of donor programmes.

Therefore, to strengthen the capacity of the NSS for data generation and making a transition to evidence-based policy-making can best be achieved through formulating a NSDS which is fully integrated into the system of national policy making. Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (2004) (MAPS) recommended mainstreaming strategic planning of statistical systems and preparing NSDS for all low-income countries by 2006. Of course, international development community needs to support this task as those countries most in need of good statistics are those least able to afford them.

## **6.0. NSDS AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS**

The NSDS should be embedded in the NEEDS/SEEDS/LEEDS/CEEDS and the development of the NSDS would have involved close collaboration with

the PRSP team. Getting the NSDS adopted with a clear programme of outputs which will be expected by stakeholders is the most effective way of getting both the producer and user organizations work together on a common agenda. Therefore the final step in the NSDS process will be to ensure that the stakeholders take ownership of the NSDS, its key recommendations and work programme. All these must be supported by the relevant policy documents e.g. the NEEDS. Indeed, the Poverty Reduction Strategies document should list information and statistics as one of its cross-cutting issues and it must be possible to incorporate some of the main NSDS issues into the PRS document. For instance the design of a NSDS will prioritize the information required for measuring progress in the MDG's and development of the PRSP/NEEDS monitoring system and consequently aid policy development in the country.

Mainstreaming NSDS into the development frameworks helps to establish strong links between the producers and users; indeed among all stakeholders including the suppliers and the media ensuring that relevant information/statistics are being generated and that orderly inputs of resources for statistical development are made to implement NSDS. The culture of evidence-based policy-making is thereby gradually being built as there is established clear linkage between statistics and development efforts.

NSDS being part of development frameworks will prevent operational departments of government collecting their own data in uncoordinated and non-cost-effective manner. Similarly uncoordinated interventions and competition among potential development partners can be prevented since clear plan for development of the statistical system has been agreed upon

through NSDS. The NSDS is, as well, a framework for coordinated resource support by the development partners. One additional critical benefit of mainstreaming NSDS into the development frameworks is the opportunity for Statisticians to understand the frameworks thoroughly thereby enhancing their ability to produce relevant information to support the policies. Therefore, essentially, Statisticians should be part of the team that designs the frameworks. This is recognizing the fact that statistics is not just “a tool for planning” but really a development policy issue, that a country cannot afford not to develop in a strategic way (NSDS).

It has been clearly proven that statistics can be improved through a comprehensive NSDS mainstreamed into the national policy processes. The strategic approach can help to make statistics available for the formulation of national development policies and to align resources to improve statistical capacity with priority needs. Improvement plans can cover the whole of the national statistical system or focus on specific areas where capacity building is needed. In some cases, for example, strategies have concentrated initially on organization issues; others have been concerned with priority subject-areas such as sub-national statistics, and as poverty monitoring. But, however action plans are focused, the strategic planning process and priority setting should be positioned within the context of the whole national statistical system (NSS).

## **7.0. SECTORAL STRATEGY MAINSTREAMED INTO THE NSDS**

National statistical development must be holistic and comprehensive to ensure that the NSS could deliver relevant statistical products to meet all

diverse demands such as sectoral data requirements and those at sub-national level. Usually, development of statistics and indeed solving statistical problems in many African countries has taken the form of merely making interventions at the National Statistical Offices. The result had always been very poor statistical deliveries at the various sectoral and sub-national levels. The improvement of national statistics has always been slowed down as development does not go far down enough. At the sectors, capacity is low in terms of human resources, equipment supply and funding statistical programmes. The various sectoral and sub-national development policies are left unsupported by statistics and evidence-based decision-making cannot take place. There is therefore the need to incorporate sectoral statistical concerns within NSDS. These could be achieved through effective coordination by the NSO, through the involvement of sector people (both users and producers alike) in the design process of the NSDS which will address the sectoral and sub-national plans. The institutional reform at the sectors will have to take place and uniform development actions will be taken in line with the individual sectoral strategic plans which are building blocks for the NSDS. This way the entire NSS will be strengthened and statistical delivery will become complete and comprehensive. At various country levels, sectoral plans are now part of the NSDS. A guideline for achieving this is under preparation.

## **8.0. CONCLUDING REMARKS**

Good statistics are not cheap, and in many countries statistical systems are under-funded and under-performing. Unless the systems are improved, the lack of statistical data will constrain economic and social development. Yet

there is the need to promote evidence-based policy-making and decisions. One major and critical step to take is to design a country-owned strategy for the development of statistics with the sectoral plans properly integrated and the overall NSDS be appropriately mainstreamed into the national policy processes. This approach ensures adequate funding for statistical development and promotes use of evidence in taking decisions which in turns brings about the culture of transparency and accountability leading to better development outcomes.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

A number of recommendations are identified for actions by various parties:

### **Governments**

- Governments should demonstrate commitment in terms of use of data for evidence-based policy-making and providing adequate funding for the generation of statistics which is seen as a “public good”.
- To elevate the profile of statistics, country authorities should make an effort to mainstream NSDS with other major development concerns such as poverty reduction, health, education, employment issues, gender equality etc. Government planners, opinion leaders and other stakeholders must be persuaded that statistics is an invaluable infrastructure in designing and defining priorities for socio-economic development.

### **National Bureau of Statistics**

- NBS’s should focus on meeting the needs of users, including policy makers and civil society for information on development outcomes; undertake user data needs assessment; seek “champions” within



government to help promote understanding on the role and of importance of statistics in development agenda.

- NBS's to give leadership in the design of the NSDS that is all-inclusive and ensures the sectoral and sub-national concerns are mainstreamed into the country's NSDS.

### Development Partners

- They should play advocacy role to convince governments of the importance of statistics and the need to allocate adequate budgets for the design, monitoring and evaluation system for national poverty reduction strategies.
- The development partners should also use the NSDS as the framework for their support for statistics ensuring that their interventions could be coordinated towards establishing basket funding for statistical development.
- The NSDS should also be used to provide data support for country strategy programmes of the donors rather than setting up parallel data system.

### General

While users should endeavour to familiarize themselves with statistical processes and be active in data use, the Statisticians should understand thoroughly development frameworks and be part of their design. This assists prioritization and relevance of needed statistics.

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