

**Second Steering Committee Meeting of the Project on  
Strengthening statistical capacity-building  
in support of progress towards the Internationally Agreed Development Goals  
in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region  
New York, 1 March 2007**

## Summary Report

### Introduction

The SADC Steering Committee met at the occasion of the 38th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The Committee briefly assessed the work already carried out and deliberated on the upcoming activities. Collaborating agencies and UNECA were also present, reiterating the commitment to active participation, greater coordination and continuous contribution to the success of the Project at various levels. A complete list of participants is attached as annex II.

### 1- The Committee discussed the following 2007 activities:

- a) **Workshop on Energy Statistics and sustainable energy indicators** - Third quarter of 2007 in Mauritius. The Mauritius Central Statistics Office has put in place an internal Organizing Committee for this event. The workshop will focus on the relevance and use of the indicators of sustainable energy and will cover the entire production process of energy statistics needed to produce the indicators. It will also be a forum to exchange views on issues relevant to availability and reliability of statistics on the supply and use of energy in the SADC countries. The event is intended to facilitate the development of a network of energy statisticians and experts in the region, in order to enhance cooperation between statistical offices and line ministries in the SADC countries.

Given that other government agencies or departments are also involved in the production of energy statistics, the head statisticians proposed that both the National Statistical Office and the country agency involved in the production of energy statistics participate in the training workshop. UNSD announced that IAEA has already agreed to sponsor four additional participants. UNSD will explore some other sources of funding to allow for the additional participant for at least a few countries, as the Development Account budget currently only allows for one participant per country.

- b) **Workshop on household surveys and measurement of labour force with focus on informal economy** - Third quarter of 2007 in Tanzania (venue and time to be confirmed). The Committee discussed the possible content of the workshop and decided that it will focus on harmonized concepts and

definitions of labour force surveys with a focus on the informal economy and a view towards its inclusion into national accounts. This workshop will be conducted in collaboration with ILO. Current and past related initiatives and outcomes of previous meetings will be examined in order to benefit from the work already developed.

- c) **Workshop on Planning for Statistical Dissemination** – April 2006 in Malawi organized by SAHIMS (venue and time to be confirmed). This will be a foundation workshop for the development of SADCInfo, a common platform for data storage and dissemination in the SADC region. A part of this event will be dedicated to assessing countries needs and current status of the mechanisms in place for statistical dissemination.
- d) **3rd Steering Committee Meeting** – May 2007, in Tanzania (to be confirmed by the SADC Secretariat). This may be held in conjunction with the next meeting of the SADC Statistics Committee in an effort to coordinate initiatives in SADC through this regular forum. The topics and the duration will be discussed in the coming weeks based on the issues extracted from this report of the SADC Steering Committee meeting.
- e) **The two other activities previously planned for 2007**, namely the *Expert group meeting on harmonization of indicators in the region with special focus on the indicators used in major conferences follow-up and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)* and the *Workshop on Vital Statistics*, are in principle agreed with. The Workshop on Vital Statistics will reflect lessons learned with the initiative in Namibia on improvement of civil registration and vital statistics carried out by UNSD in conjunctions with the Health Metrics Network. The timing for these events will be decided by the Committee taking into account all the other activities the SADC Statistics Committee has on the schedule. Consultations will be made with the SADC Secretariat so as to optimize the events in the sub-region.
- f) Regarding the previously planned *Workshop on Population and Housing Censuses with a Focus on Countries in Recovery*, the Committee was asked to consider the idea of moving this activity towards contributing to the organization of an Expert Group Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses in Countries in Recovery. The event would have the ultimate objective of producing guidelines and methodologies that could be used by other countries in similar circumstances. The development of such guidelines would involve world experts from other parts of Africa as well as from other regions, and would count on the substantive and financial contribution by UNFPA. Subsequently, the two SADC countries in the process of recovery and rebuilding of their national statistical systems (NSS), namely Angola and DRC, would benefit directly from the process of development of such guidelines, and receive a more in-depth technical assistance. Member states evoked the Luanda Declaration adopted in December 2006 and reiterated their commitment to helping SADC countries rebuild their NSSs and participate in

the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses. They also expressed their willingness to use the budget for this activity to the particular benefit of countries in recovery. A proposal will be circulated to the Committee for its final decision.

The new timeframe for activities can be found in the annex I.

## **2- The Committee discussed the IT related initiatives of the Project:**

- a) Plans for the development of the SADCInfo will also take into account the outcome of the Malawi workshop on planning for the dissemination of statistics (see above). This will also be one of the priorities of the SADC Project Coordinator.
- b) The Committee was informed that three SADC countries are already in the process of piloting the implementation of DevInfo and Standards of Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) in the region, in the context of monitoring the MDGs: Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia. A copy of the presentation made by the DevInfo Group at the conference "Towards the implementation of SDMX" held in Washington, DC, from 9 to 11 January 2007 was distributed and can be found at the SADC website.

## **3- Reiterating the importance of collaboration with partner agencies and organizations, member states took note of other relevant activities planned for the region:**

- a) UNWTO exposed their pluriannual capacity building programme on tourism statistics, to be implemented in two training modalities: 5-day workshops geared towards selected countries (a maximum of seven in Africa) and regional seminars, open to all countries in the region. Candidate countries will be selected based on the answers received to an ad hoc request for information and national commitments, according to the following criteria:
  - the political determination of National Tourism Agencies (NTA) and National Statistics Offices (NSOs) to give priority to the development of national System of Tourism Statistics;
  - the present work carried out by the NTA in tourism statistics (and any concrete project for the next 3 years) as well as the number and qualification of staff assigned;
  - the list of initiatives carried out by governmental organizations – mainly NTA, NSO, Central Bank and Migration Authority- in tourism related statistics;
  - the development of metadata on basic tourism statistics using UNWTO formats.

- b) PARIS21, World Bank and IMF reiterated their willingness to collaborate and emphasized the importance to carry out activities in a coordinated manner. Representatives briefly mentioned their initiatives in the SADC region-- namely the Anglophone Africa General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) initiative project, Poverty Statistics in SADC Countries, South-south cooperation initiatives, Accelerated Data Programme, Review of Quality Strategies through a peer review mechanism, Guidelines on integration of sector stats, Advocacy for funding of statistical development activities as part of country governance (including a toolkit for countries to develop their own advocacy), Elaboration of costing for statistical activities. IMF expressed the desire to cooperate in the Workshop on Planning for Dissemination of Statistics.
- c) AFRISTAT stated their readiness to collaborate and share experience and material available (mostly in French for the time being).
- d) UNECA will continue to actively participate in the activities of the Project.
- e) The representative from Zimbabwe raised the issue that if the Project activities were combined with IMF activities, they would be concerned about being cut out and urged the Committee to consider this carefully.

4- The Committee was informed that the recruitment process of the SADC Coordinator is progressing and UNSD, SADC Secretariat and Botswana Central Statistical Office will select the coordinator out of the 16 applications received. The Terms of Reference previously approved by the Committee was distributed and no further amendments were made.

5- The Committee requested a more intensive interaction with the SADC Secretariat to improve coordination. This will be one of the priorities of the SADC Project Coordinator. The Committee also expressed its wish to continue fostering a stronger integration among statisticians from other sub-regions, as was done in the first workshop of the Project, with the active participation of one of the ECOWAS NSOs.

### **Other business**

UNFPA requested that countries with incomplete civil registration systems should consider measuring maternal mortality through their population and housing censuses, using questions recommended by the *United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2*, in Para 2.196.

## Annex I: Updated work plan

Expected accomplishment (EA)	Main activity	Timeframe by output/activity			
		2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>EA 1: Improved organization of statistical systems and user-producer relationships, resulting in quality, timely and relevant data on the Millennium Development Goals</b>	A1.1 Workshop on statistical organization and management	done			
	A1.2 Enhancing ICT		x	x	x
	A1.3 Study Tours		done	x	
	A1.4 Contributing to the coordination of statistical activities at sub-regional and regional level	done	x	x	x
<b>EA 2: Adoption of international statistical methods and standards for knowledge management in relation to the Millennium Development Goals and internationally agreed development goals</b>	A2.1 Expert group meeting on harmonization of indicators in the region with special focus on the indicators used in major conferences follow-up and the MDGs		new date tba		
	A2.2 Workshop on household surveys and measurement of labour force with focus on informal economy		3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter – Tanzania (to be confirmed)		
	A2.3 Workshop on statistical development and Population Censuses in countries in recovery		Possible change to EGM and follow-up activities		
	A2.4 Workshop on Household Surveys with a focus on health statistics			x	
	A2.5 Workshop on vital statistics		new date tba		
	A2.6 Workshop on energy statistics		3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter – Mauritius		
	A2.7 Enhancing ICT		x	x	x
	A2.8 Study Tours		done	x	x

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