Coordination mechanisms for capacity building in economic statistics and national accounts in Africa

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African Development Bank
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Instruments for coordination

- **Principles**
  - African Charter on Statistics (adopted in 2009)
  - Regional Statistics Policies
  - National Statistical Legislations (Acts)

- **Frameworks**
  - Reference Regional Strategic Framework (RRSF) for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa (2007) for implementation of
    - Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS) in Africa
    - Busan Action Plan (2011)

- **Strategies**
  - Strategy for Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA) (2011) – to provide harmonized reliable statistics for the design & implementation, as well as monitoring & evaluation of integration & development policies
  - Regional Statistical Development Plans (RSDPs) to support regional integration agendas
  - National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)
Statistical development – vertical alignment
Statistical Governance and Coordination

- A number of organs have been set up to promote statistical governance and coordination in Africa
  - **Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa)**
  - **Committee of Director General (CoDGs)**
  - **African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC)**
  - **African Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD)**
  - **National Data User–Producer Committee**
  - **African Contact Group on Enhancing Collaboration to Improve Statistics for the Post 2015 Development Agenda**
    - MOU for MDBs & UN (Africa Statistics contact group)

- Their membership comprises of representatives from the relevant institutions in member countries, regional and sub-regional organizations as well as international organization including the UN.
Regional Programs

Regional initiatives with governance & coordination mechanisms

• International Comparison Program (capacity building in National Accounts and Prices)
• Action Plan to Improve Sustain Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Statistics
• Regional strategy for the implementation of the 2008 SNA
  – African Group on National Accounts
  – Continental Steering Committee

Others
• Population censuses under the African Symposium for Statistical Development (ASSD) – country led initiative but supported by pan-African institutions.

In the pipeline

• Civil registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)
• 2020 Population census under the ASSD
Governance Structure

Regional Level
- Regional Steering Committee
- Regional Implementation Secretariat

Sub Regional Level – RECs
- Regional Implementation Secretariats

National Level
- National SCB Committee
- In some cases national Coordinator
- In some cases TWG
Activities under National Accounts

Regional & Sub-Regional Level

• Country assessments of the status of implementation of 2008 SNA in SADC, COMESA, ECOWAS and UMA countries:
  – Assessment report for SADC countries done in 2015
  – Assessment report done for COMESA and Anglophone ECOWAS countries done in October 2015
  – Assessment for Francophone ECOWAS and UMA to be done in third quarter 2016
• Training workshop on development of implementation plans for 2008 implementation done for SADC countries in conjunction with UNSD in 2015
• Training workshops on Supply and Use Table construction done for SADC, COMESA and Anglophone ECOWAS countries in 2015 and 2016
Activities in national accounts

National Level

- Various country driven TA
- Peer reviews
- Re-basing of GDP
Contraints & Challenges

Despite the remarkable progress in African statistical systems over the past decade, three main fundamental challenges still exist – especially in the area of economic statistics:

- **Source data** - currently heavily reliant on surveys
- **Weak and inadequate legal & organizational frameworks** (incl. IT & legal infrastructure);
- **Shortage of statistical manpower & skills** to meet the ever-increasing demand for economic statistics;
- **Persistent for increased financial resources** for statistical development & activities
- **Poor coordination** among the main actors (TA providers)
Way Forward

What can be done to assist countries to effectively & efficiently improve their national accounts and supporting economic statistics in order to respond to all the data demands?

- Put in place a **regional strategy for harmonized integrated economic statistics & national accounts**
- Develop a **statistical capacity building program** on economic statistics that is embedded in the NSDS
  - **Establish** a harmonized integrated economic statistics & national accounts programme.
    - **Advocacy** for timely & reliable economic statistics using the ASSD platform
- Review the **statistical legislation** for easy access to administrative data
- **Promote** the use of administrative data
Way Forward

• **Coordinated & coherent** support
  – Entry for support => a harmonized integrated economic statistics & national accounts programme.
  – Share programs/schedule of planned activities
  – Pooled resources to support generation of economic related data

• **Enhance capacity** of, including using existing structures (AFRITACS, STCs, AFRISTAT, etc)

• Set up a **governance structure** which includes donors and TA providers
High 5 priority agenda

- Feed Africa
- Integrate Africa
- Industrialise Africa
- Light up and power Africa
- Improve quality of life for the people of Africa
Thank you