Positioning the ACS in Economics Statistics: International Merchandise Trade Statistics

Bakary DOSSO, Statistician, African Centre for Statistics (ACS)

Scope

I. Background

II. Trade and Trade Statistics in ECA’s Programmes

III. Capacity Building

IV. ECA Trade Statistics related Publications
I. Background:

- Creation of the African Centre for Statistics in August 2006
- Six thematic areas:
  - Statistics Coordination
  - Censuses
  - Surveys
  - Economic Statistics
  - Training
  - Data management

I. Background (cont'd)

- Economic and Environmental Statistics Section with functions to include Basic Economic Statistics:
  - Prices,
  - Trade,
  - Industrial Statistics,
  - Business surveys,
  - System of National Accounts,
  - Environmental Statistics, etc.
II. Trade and Trade Statistics in ECA’s Programmes

Trade statistics, essential component of National Accounts and Balance of Payment Statistics

Keys inputs for trade policies and regional economic integration

II. Trade and Trade Stats in ECA’s Prgmes (cont’d)

ECA major programme in trade analysis: TFED to which is attached the ATPC,

NRID: NEPAD and Regional Integration Division: IMTS essential to understand the dynamic of African economic integration

ACS: Trade statistics through its economic statistics programme
• Capacity Building
• Data collection and dissemination
### III. Capacity Building in Trade Statistics

Reference Regional Strategic Framework for statistical capacity building in Africa (RRSF) as the overarching framework: assesses problems, constraints and challenges facing statistical capacity building in Africa

### III. Capacity Building (cont’d)

Revamping of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA): ACS, AfDB, ACBF

- Workshops for training of trainers
- Curricula development
- Advisory services to training institutions
- On-the-job training at **NSOs**
- Twinning arrangements
- Development of methodology guides and standards
### III. Capacity Building (cont’d)

ACS staff are undergoing skills development in various areas including trade statistics:

- Training on EUROTRACE (Comoros)
- Training of Trainers on EUROTRACE (Currently ongoing in Luxembourg, with EUROSTAT)

### IV. ECA Trade Statistics related Publications

Three major statistics Publications:

- African Statistics Yearbook
- African Socioeconomic Indicators
- Compendium of Intra-African and related Foreign Trade Statistics.
IV. ECA Trade related Statistics Publications

Coverage:

Direction of Trade by country and subregion
Intra-African Trade by country, subregion and econ. grouping
Intra-African Trade by SICT section
Trade by SITC section

Sources:

COMTRADE
Countries Publications
DOTS
Estimates

Problems encountered:

Availability of data and its coverage
Timeliness
Diversity and conflict of sources
Insufficient national dissemination

Best practice:

Harmonization of Trade data: Trade Data reconciliation committee (NSO, Custom Authority, Central Bank, Ministry of Finance)
Conclusion and recommendations

- ACS to position itself in capacity building in IMTS in close collaboration with its partners
- Countries to improve the coordination of their statistical system as recommended by the NSDS

Thank You

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