REGIONAL SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS

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OUTLINES

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I. The role of National Data Correspondant (NDC)

II. The questionnaire for data collection

III. Data quality issues

IV. Challenges areas

❑ Conclusion and Recommendations
INTRODUCTION

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
(Some Divisions of the Department)

- African Monetary Fund (Yaoundé, Cameroon)
- African Investment Bank (Tripoli, Libya)
- African Central Bank (Abuja, Nigeria)
- Pan-African Stock Exchange

Key Partners
- Paris 21, Eurostat
- UNDP, AfDB, ECA, IDEP, BADEA, ILO, ACBF
- European Union, China, India

Private Sector Development, Investment & Resource Mobilization Division
- Annually Organization of the African Union Private Sector Forum
- Creation Pan-African investment standards
- Implementation of the Pan-African Action Plan on Microfinance
- Identification et dissemination of best Practices

Economic Integration & Regional Cooperation Division
- Ensure implementation of the Abuja treaty
- Implementation of the Minimum Integration Program
- Coordination and Harmonization of activities of Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

Economic Policies and Research Division

Statistics Division
- Implementation of the African Charter on Statistics
- Implementation of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHAASA)
- Creation in Tunis (Tunisia) of Pan-African Statistical Institute (Equivalent of EUROSTAT)
- Creation in Yamoussoukro (Côte d’Ivoire) of Pan-African School of Statistics
I. THE ROLE OF NDC

- Since 2009, NBS nominated NDC. They are statistician, they have experience on National Statistical System (external trade statistics).

- NDCs complete involvement is crucial to enhance the quality of AUC, AfDB and UNECA common database and Statistical Yearbook series:
  - NDCs have to collect only data produced by the NSS and all its components;
  - NDCs must check the data quality before sending information to continental/regional (RECs)/international organisations;
NDCs collect data through a common and harmonized questionnaire with a particular attention to the sources and definitions of data collected; finally

NDCs must send data collected within reasonable time period
II. The questionnaire for data collection: common question with AUC, AfBD, UNECA for the Yearbook

Data section

• Social & demographic indicators
• National Accounts
• CPI data
• Production sectors
• Financial & monetary statistics

• **External sector statistics**
• Tourism & infrastructure statistics
• ICT indicators
• Environment Indicators

Country and NDC

• Country name:
• NDC Name:
• NDC Contacts:
II. The questionnaire for data collection: data collection process at local level (cont’.)

AUC’s Statistics Division

AUC’s partners, AfDB, UN websites

National Statistical Offices

NSO’s partners, UN websites

Ministries

National agencies

Central Bank

Etc.

(Sectoriels)
III. DATA QUALITY ISSUES

Common errors or inconsistencies

- Unit of measurement not clearly defined
- Basic Equilibrium not met
  \((A=B+C+..)\)
- Consistency between data sections not met

All of these errors should be corrected before sending the data to continental/regional/agencies organisations
III. DATA QUALITY ISSUES (CONT’.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Not validated</th>
<th>NDCs did not want to use the original questionnaire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NDCs partially used the questionnaire</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NDCs sent their data separately</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NDCs did not know how to use the questionnaire</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data validated</th>
<th>NDCs used the recommended questionnaire</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Data Validation buttons are systematically used</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Data well documented in each data section</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
IV. CHALLENGES AREAS

Perverse incentives limiting data development and use; poor coordination and political challenges on:

- External sector statistics

- **WHY?**
  - Delay in responding to the questionnaire;
  - “data blanks” on key performance indicators;
  - Inadequate data reporting by NDC;
  - A lack of agreed norms and standards for the management;
  - Lack of policy; enforcement of policy;
CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Encourage Members States to respond to the questionnaire on time;
- Customize External trade statistics;
- AUC to work closely with RECs;
- AUC to work with partners to reduce data processing time;
- Allowed national and international data comparisons (with RECs and International organizations);
Some publications of the AUC’s Statistis Division
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