WORKSHOP ON
"PEER REVIEWS MECHANISM FOR NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES IN OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES"

Assessment of the African National Statistical :
Peer review Methodology

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Presented by : Mrs Leila Ben Ali
Head of Statistics Division
African Union Commission

Plan

I. Introduction

Since 2007, Peer review exercises have been conducted to assess weaknesses and strengths of the National Statistical Systems in Africa.

These peer reviews were led by Paris21 in collaboration with Institutions such as the African Union Commission (AUC), Afristat, and other partners from 2007 up to January 2017.

With the reference to the adoption of PAS program with Peer review, as one of the focus areas, new Peer review methodology and African Snapshot Tool have been developed, aiming to assess National Statistical System in Africa.

II. Background on the peer review exercises

The African peer reviews of NSSs were launched in 2003 by the Economic Commission for Africa's Committee on Development Information (CODI).

CODI recommended that African countries, supported by PARIS21, should carry out peer reviews to ensure that good practice passes from country to country, based on the first-hand experience of peers, to help accelerate the development of national statistical systems.

CODI also recommended that policymakers should be included in the peer reviews of African NSSs for advocacy purposes, to share experiences of policy approaches and provide their feedback as users of statistics not peer reviews only producers.

This was also a response to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) agenda for greater transparency and openness in governance (including through peer reviews) and drew on the longstanding experiences of peer reviews carried out between members of OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

III. Objectives of the Peer reviews

Peer reviews aim to improve the efficiency of the NSS to provide accurate and reliable statistics for better decision making.

In other words, the peer review aims to improve governance and operation of national statistical systems and strengthen their capacity to produce and make available necessary statistics to users for better decision making.

Its focus is on governance of the NSS, its organization, strategic planning, service to users, funding and sustainability.

IV. Key actions on the Peer review exercises

In 2010 a recommendation came out from the Committee of Directors General of NSI/NSO (CoDGs) meeting held in Yaounde, asking the AUC to take the leadership in conducting Peer review exercise across Africa.

The AUC took part in the five latest peer review exercises using Paris 21 methodology. The latter assume the leadership in one of the five peer reviews.

V. New Peer review methodology

The new Peer review methodology has using as inputs the methodology developed by Paris21 in order to identify weaknesses and strengths of NSS, the principles of the African Charter on Statistics and the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, while the African snapshot tool draws one's inspiration from Eurostat Snapshot tool.

In addition to the assessment of the governance of the NSS, both procedures assess the following elements :

❑Independence: the system must have a 'widely acknowledged position of *professional* independence'

❑Relevance: the system must produce the statistics that users need

❑Credibility: the system must produce statistics that are generally perceived to be reliable

❑Coordination: the system produces statistics that are comparable across domains and over time

Focus of the peer reviews:

Five major themes of focus:
- ➢ Organisation and coordination of the NSS
- ➢ Institutional environment
- ➢ Quality
- ➢ Statistical processes
- ➢ Dissemination

List of issues to be discussed under each theme:
- ➢ Theme 1: governance, composition of NSS, NSDS or master plan, relationship with stakeholders
- ➢ Theme 2: professional independence, confidentiality, mandate for data collection, resources
- ➢ Theme 3: quality, relevance & user relations, coherence & comparability, accuracy & reliability, corrections and revision practices, quality assurance
- ➢ Theme 4: statistical processes, use of international standards,methological soundness, administrative data
- ➢ Theme 5: Dissemination modes & practices, release calendar, pre-release access, access to micro data

Under the PAS programme:

Guidelines developed and reviewed based on comments of AU MS:
- ➢ African Snapshot questionnaire adapted to the african context,
- ➢ *"Main steps of the peer review preparations and implementation"*,
- ➢ *"Peer Reviews of NSIs/NSSs in African countries: Guidance for participants"*,
- ➢ *"Peer Reviews of NSIs/NSSs in African countries: Proposed methodology"*.

- ✓ **Peer review team**: 2 peers—heads or deputy head of 2 African NSOs and 1 expert.
- ✓ Other participants: 1 AUC staff + observers from Pan-African institutions, PARIS 21, RECs, inter. organizations.
- ✓ Self-assessment using the African snapshot questionnaire prior to the PR visit
- ✓ Field visit = 5 days.
- ✓ Nomination of country coordinator for PR arrangements

V. New Peer review methodology (Cont.)

At least 3 months before the agreed peer review date

1
Agreement on peer Review date with the Head of the NSO

At least 1 month before the lunch of the peer review date

2
List of the requested Documents sent to the peer review team

Conduct during four working days + 1 days for reporting

3
Peer review schedule and period

Sent 1 month after the peer review undertaken

4
First draft of the report provide to the country

Sent in 2 or 3 months

5
Final report provide for dissemination after taking into account comments

NSS: Peer review schedule and methodology

15 countries candidate for the PAS-PPR

Year			Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
2017	→											Botswana Mauritius		Niger	
2018	→		Equatorial Guinea	Gambia Namibia	Zimbabwe	Libya Congo	Burundi São Tome & P.	Benin Comoros			Togo				
2019	→						Mozambique								

VI. Map of peer reviews conducted in Africa between 2007 and 2017

Peer reviews aim at improving the efficiency of the NSS to provide accurate and reliable statistics for better decision making.

Based on the former Peer review methodology 15 Peer reviews had been conducted in 10 years. The latest country being reviewed is Côte d'Ivoire in January 2017.

n°	Number	Years	Countries reviewed	Countries reviewers
1*	1	2016	Tanzania	South Africa and Kenya
1	2	2017	Côte d'Ivoire	Cameroon and Senegal
2	3	2015	Cameroon	Tchad and Senegal
2	4	2015	Kenya	South Africa and Tanzania
3	5	2014	Mauritania	Djibouti and Mali
4	6	2011	Senegal	Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea
5	7	2010	Benin	Burundi and Guinea
5	8	2010	Congo	Benin and R. D. of Congo
6	9	2009	Burkina Faso	Cameroon and Niger
6	10	2009	Malawi	Mozambique and Tanzania
6	11	2009	Mozambique	Malawi et Tanzania
6	12	2009	Niger	Burkina Faso and Mauritania
7	13	2007	Ghana	Kenya and Tanzania
7	14	2007	Tanzania	Ghana and Tanzania
7	15	2007	Zambia	Ghana and Tanzania

Source: AUC & Paris21

In 10 years only one country had been reviewed twice and 15 peer reviews conducted.

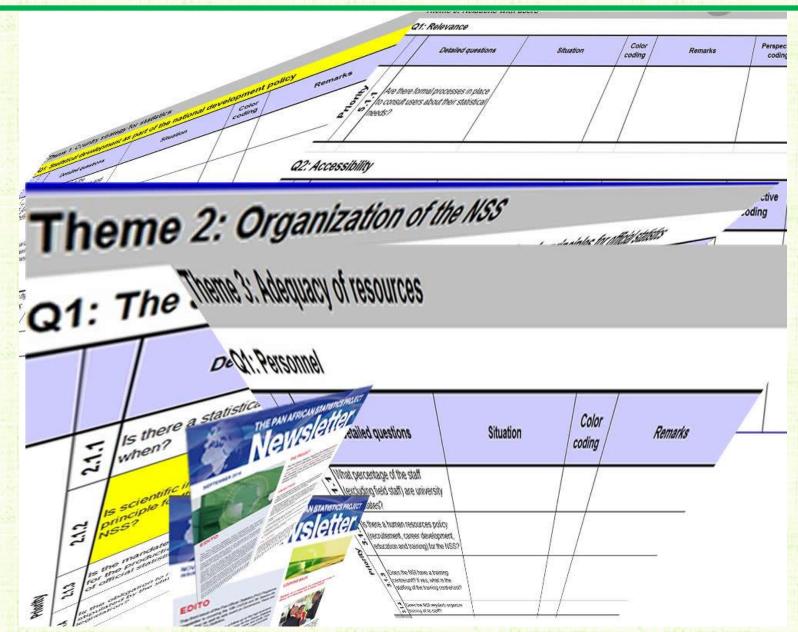In order to allow countries continue doing regularly/yearly the assessment of their National Statistical Systems

The AUC has adopted the African Snapshot Tool customized from the Eurostat Snapshot tool and adapted to the african context to answer to african situation.

Cartographie
examen par les pairs

À partir de 2017		(39)
2007	(+1)	(2)
2009		(4)
2010		(2)
2011		(1)
2014		(1)
2015		(2)
2016		(2)

Source: AUC & Paris21

What is the snapshot?
Snapshot tool is a tool used to assess strengths and weaknesses of a given National Statistical System

What are the objectives of the snapshot ?

The Snapshot tool enables African National Statistical Offices to assess:

❑ The institutional environment of their respective NSS

❑ The quality of data produced by the NSS and results achieved by the national policies and reform programmes

❑ the performance and results achieved by the national policies and reform programmes

❑ the efforts to improve the performance of the NSS

VII. African Snapshot tool (cont'd)

The tool consists of a questionnaire (in Excel) divided in two modules:

Module 1:
analysis of the functioning of the NSS as a whole, with a special focus on institutional, legal and organizational aspects

Module 2:
Analysis of specific statistical sectors and related key indicators. A wide range of sectors can be assessed (such as: education, health, agriculture, food security, private sector development, climate change and environment, economic growth, governance, infrastructure, external trade of goods, employment, living conditions, macro-economic stability, population).

Better quality statistics → Better policies and decision making → BETTER DEVELOPMENT

VII. African Snapshot tool (cont'd)
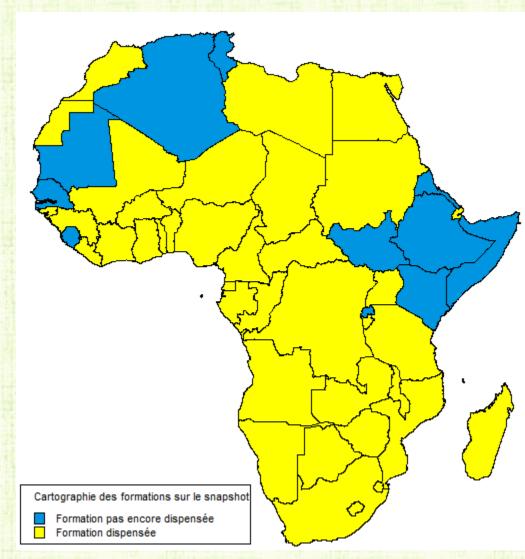
Snapshot in the Pan-African context

➢ Used in the context of the Peer review of NSIs/NSSs

➢ Module 1 *Assessment of the NSS* is the self-assessment questionnaire (to be filled in by the Member States in advance of the peer review visits)

➢ Some questions were revised to be adapted to the african context

➢ The 'Pan-African' Snapshot tool is available in English, French and Portuguese, the arabic version will be planned for the next plan.

VII. African Snapshot tool (cont'd)

98 Experts from 46 countries have been trained in the use of the African Snapshot Tool (2017).

AUC has planed to organize at least 8 peer reviews in 2018 and 10 in 2019.

So far, 15 AU Member States have responded volunteer to the request addressed to them regarding their availability of hosting the peer review team and being reviewed by the latter.

Cartographie des formations sur le snapshot

■ Formation pas encore dispensée
■ Formation dispensée

VIII. Action undertaken and way forward

- ➢ 4 trainings are planned this year on how to use the snapshot tool as follows: 9-10 October in Addis Ababa, 30-31 October in Douala, 13-14 November in Pretoria, 20-21 November in Abidjan
- ➢ Revision of the Snapshot tool on going (Dec. 2017)
- ➢ Planning of PR underway
- ➢ Candidate MS to **nominate coordinator** and **propose two peers**
- ➢ All participating and non participating MS to take part to the **baseline study**—Self assessment using the snapshot questionnaire
- ➢ Build synergy and between African Union Commission, Paris21, Afristat and RECs for the organization of the 18 peer review planned to be conducted under PAS within 3 years (2017-2019)
- ➢ Assist National Statistical Office in owning the snapshot tool, use it on regular basis and disseminate results from that exercise for a better decision making and improvement of quality of statistics produced at national, regional and continental levels.
- ➢ Call upon for a strengthen and win-win partnership between AUC and Institutions in building capacities of the African National Statistical Systems and providing technical support to National Statistical Offices.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION

Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention