

Editorial

We welcome readers to Volume 6. Since the last edition of the Journal, four apex events have taken place to mark continued strides by the African statistical community towards sustained statistical development in the region. First, the publication of the results of the International Comparison Program for Africa (ICP-Africa) arising from the commendable work done by the 48 participating African countries. The results were unanimously endorsed at a regional workshop held in Accra, Ghana from 28th November to 1st December, 2007 and at which 50 African countries were represented by Heads of national statistical offices (NSOs) and price and national accounts experts. A summary of the ICP results as well as the Declaration adopted by the Heads of NSOs are published herein. Second, the third African Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) was held in Accra, from 3–7 December, 2007 to reaffirm effective principles aimed at enhancing the current round of population and housing censuses. Third, the Statistical Commission for Africa (STATCOM-Africa) was launched in Addis Ababa from 20–24 January 2008 to provide a forum for African countries to discuss statistical development issues on the continent. The Communiqué on the meeting has been included in this edition. Fourth, the successful holding of STATCOM-Africa facilitated effective participation of Africa, as a region, in the 39th session of the UN Statistical Commission that was held in New York, U.S.A. from 26–29 February, 2008. The STATCOM-Africa secretariat at ECA presented a report highlighting statistical development issues in Africa.

These events mark significant strides in continued efforts by African countries and development partners to scale up statistical development in the region. To highlight some aspects of this common endeavor, we have selected five broad themes for the current volume. Two of them are particularly topical: one relates to statistics for monitoring and evaluation, for which a paper is being published. The article draws lessons learned from relevant methodological approaches implemented in Burkina Faso; the second one concerns food security statistics that are addressed in case study on Burundi. The third theme relates to regional integration, the fourth to national statistical development strategies, whereas science, technology and innovation statistics are the fifth dimension explored in the volume. The latter theme is presented in three different papers focusing on where Africa stands today in this area, the opportunities Africa can leverage, as

well as the proposed Plan of Action to be taken using a country experience. There is also an article on the dynamics of secondary abstinence among unmarried young people in selected districts in Uganda.

Finally, on behalf of the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC), we would like to take this opportunity to extend a hand of welcome to the international Statistical Community which will hold its 12th session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), at the headquarters of the African Development Bank in Tunis, Tunisia, from 11–12 September 2008. We take this as an opportunity to highlight the steady strides being made in statistical development in Africa.

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