Dear Colleagues,

Subject: Selected theme for the celebration of the 2013 edition of the African Statistics Day

Every year, on 18 November, the African statistical community celebrates the African Statistics Day (ASD) with the objective of raising public awareness about the importance of statistics in the economic and social development of the continent. The decision of celebrating ASD on 18 November every year was taken since 1990 by the twenty-fifth Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Sixteenth Meeting of African Ministers responsible for Economic Planning and Development.

We are pleased to inform you that, after a consultation process that involved countries as well as partners, the selected theme for the 2013 edition of the ASD is the following: “Quality Data to support African Progress”.

This theme was chosen in order to raise the awareness of decision makers, technical and financial partners, data producers, researchers, and the public in general about the critical importance of producing quality data for informing policy decisions and for monitoring the progress toward nationally and internationally agreed development objectives, in particular the MDGs and the various targets that are being set or will be set for the post-2015 development agenda.

You will receive in due time a media advisory explaining the meaning and the importance of the selected theme, as well as posters to be used for advocacy purpose.

Although we are expecting the celebrations of the ASD to be on the proposed theme, you are free to select various topics that fit your own agenda, as long as they are in line with the common theme.

As every year, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) will make every effort to support African national statistical systems for the celebration of this important event. Please feel free to contact us for clarifications or for any other support you may need.

The ECA wishes success to all the activities you will undertake to commemorate this edition of the African Statistical Day.

Thank you for your usual support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Dimitri Sanga
Director
African Centre for Statistics

P.O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Tel: (251-11) 544 99 00/551 11 65 (Direct); Fax: (251-11) 551 22 33/551 19 29 (Direct)