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The fourth quarter of the year 2018 was marked by intensified actions to strengthen the function of executing agency, resources mobilization, visibility and diversification of partnerships. Some missions dedicating the will of the thematic enlargement of AFRISTAT have been made and the orientations of the work program for 2019 have been formulated.

With regard to the strengthening of its function as executing agency, AFRISTAT has carried out various actions on:

- Technical plan: Technical assistance and training missions contributed to the successful implementation of the WAEMU regional statistic program, 2017 ICP-Africa, SCB program IV. 2, CEMAC harmonized consumer price index, SODDA and FAO projects. In addition to these, the process of collecting statistical data from countries has been accelerated through written relaunches and awareness of focal points in countries;
- The administrative and financial plan: the current implementation of the projects in Bamako and the provision of funds for the harmonious pursuit of the work in the countries were carried out. At the same time, the administrative and financial monitoring missions have been increased in order to improve the quality of the supporting documents of the expenditure incurred in the beneficiary countries of the resources released by the various projects.

The resources mobilization actions were conducted during the missions carried out by the Director-General of AFRISTAT in the Congo, Chad and Togo. Other opportunities have been found between international and national meetings to raise awareness among the authorities of other Member States on the urgency of seeing countries fulfil their commitments to the AFRISTAT Fund.

Under the initiatives for the promotion of visibility and the diversification of partnerships, AFRISTAT has worked to finalise the operationalization of its multisectoral database called Super-Jupiter. It has also taken an active part in international meetings organized by the following partners: The African Union Commission, the Regional Economic Commissions, United cities and Local governments (UCLG) of Africa, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Global Strategy for the improvement of agricultural and rural statistics.

The emerging thematics on which the observatory worked during the quarter under review concern: The quality approach, the satellite accounts of the culture, the costs of agricultural production and the calculation and dissemination of the SDGs indicators.

Finally, AFRISTAT organized its traditional end-of-year coordination meeting to focus on the work accomplished throughout the 2018 fiscal year. It shows that the recorded performance is rather satisfactory, although some difficulties, both endogenous and exogenous, have been identified. The actions not carried out under 2018, the agendas of the projects being implemented and the specific needs expressed by the Member States allowed the Directorate-General to set out the main guidelines for 2019. These relate mainly to the further enhancement of AFRISTAT's strategic work Plan for the period 2017-2021 with an emphasis on: mobilization and diversification of resources, visibility actions, intervention on emerging issues including SDGs indicators and human resource development.

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## Rebasing the national accounts: Situation and Implications in AFRISTAT Member States

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*A basic change in the national accounts is an essential exercise to update macroeconomic data that is reliable, comprehensive and consistent with the real economic situation of the country in perpetual evolution. This initiative becomes imperative and urgent, especially in the current context of international, regional, sub-regional and national commitments. Indeed, comparability of data plays a key role in the analysis and understanding of socio-economic phenomena.*

■ **At the international level**, there are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 UN Agenda with 244 indicators designed to monitor, evaluate and report on them. "SDG indicators are disaggregated by income level, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability status, place of residence or other characteristics, as appropriate, according to the Fundamental Principles of Statistics"<sup>2</sup>. Several SDG indicators are more or less related to GDP. However, we can particularly consider those relating to Objectives 1, 7 and 8 of which the monitoring is directly based on the assessment of GDP or its components:

- SDG1: Eliminate extreme poverty in all forms and all over the world (living on less than \$ 1.25 a day);
- SDG 7: Ensure access for all to reliable, sustainable and modern energy services at an affordable cost;
- SDG 8: Promote sustained, shared and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent employment for all.

■ **At the African level**, the African Union (AU), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) have embarked on ambitious programs of socio-economic development of African states. They also deal with the diversification or structural transformation of the African economy. The objectives of the 2063 African Union Agenda centered around a "prosperous, integrated and peaceful Africa" can only be measured through the existence of comparable, harmonized and secure statistical data. That is why, these three organizations, aware of the challenge of the modernization of African statistics, launched in 2009 an important global strategy called SHaSA (Strategy for Harmonization of Statistics in Africa) whose pillars are harmonization and the comparability of social, demographic and economic statistics. African states have just approved the second version of SHaSA for the period 2017-2026. The expected results of this program are well summarized in this quote<sup>2</sup> "It is expected that the implementation of the SHaSA II will lead to the production of comparable statistics and aimed at promoting better program implementation and decision-making for the benefit of the agendas African Regional Development and Integration Program".

■ **the sub-regional level**, there are the different regional economic communities (SADC,

COMESA, ECOWAS, ECCAS, UMA)<sup>3</sup> which aim, each of them, economic development, monetary and customs of his region. Binding economic convergence criteria are set and the Member States undertake to respect them for the proper functioning of the area. ECOWAS for example is considering the creation of a single currency from 2020 in its zone but in a progressive way. For this purpose, precise convergence criteria have been set, among which several of them refer to GDP in their calculations. Within these large economic complexes, there are economic sub-entities such as the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) working on the field with their respective Member States for the compilation of harmonized statistical data, comparable in the context of monitoring their multilateral convergence<sup>4</sup>. These two institutions work in close collaboration with AFRISTAT in the framework of the harmonization and improvement of economic and social statistical data. To mention only the projects that are in progress, there are the Regional Statistical Program (PSR) of the WAEMU 2015-2020 and the project of Harmonized Consumer Price Index (IHPC-CEMAC) 2017-2019.

■ **At the national level and this is where the challenges are important**, in the past few decades there have been five-year development programs with evolving names, ranging from National Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategies to National Development Plans (NDP) or Emerging National Plans (ENP). These programs have measurable objectives with clear indicators and clear timelines for implementation. The monitoring, evaluation and reporting of these national development plans or SDGs depend on countries producing quality statistical indicators that comply with international standards.

The different programs and strategies mentioned above remind us that the rebasing exercise is at the center of the problem of the reform of the statistical system in order to reach the required levels of quality and comparability. It must be emphasized that of all the actors, those at the country level are irreplaceable because they are at the center of the implementation process. Indeed, the decision to rebase the national accounts is exclusively the sovereignty of each country.

### What is the rebasing of the national accounts?

It should be noted that the transition to a new base year of national accounts is an appropriate opportunity to introduce many improvements in the measurement of economic activity (hidden economy, social action, foreign trade) or to correct errors in estimates and measures found during the previous base. An accounting basis is defined as a period of calculation of national accounts in which in principle, none of the following five elements are changed: concepts, statistical sources, classifications of activities and products, methods of processing, reference year of constant prices.

### Why the base year should be changed?

The factors that justify the change of a base year are numerous but the most important are:

- After a certain period, there is certainly a change in the economic structure of a country. These changes are due to the creation of emerging economic activities, not yet or insufficiently covered, to the appearance or the disappearance of a product, to the expansion or the contraction of the sectors of activity like the new information and communication technologies that have developed very quickly in recent years in the sub-region. Public money-for-money transfers did not exist 10 or 15 years ago, but are spread all over Africa today. This is not done without negatively affecting the scale of the activities of traditional banks that held the monopoly of money transfer activities;
- Structural change in consumption, production or marketing habits. In fact, the calculation of the national accounts generally uses for the intermediate consumption matrix the assumption of consistency of the Leontief technical coefficients in the short term. This assumption becomes obsolete if the period is very long and economic units change their habits in terms of consumption, production or marketing. The profit objective pushes all the economic production units to adopt processes giving them more profitability;
- Structural change in relative prices due to disappearance or appearance of products<sup>5</sup>. The principle of relative prices loses its value in the event that the periodicity of revision of the list of products followed is very prolonged;
- Significant change in quality as soon as

<sup>1</sup> Resolution N° 68/231 of the United Nations General Assembly

<sup>2</sup> UNECA, African Union (2017) "Strategy for Harmonization of Statistics in Africa 2017-2026", page 19

<sup>3</sup> SADC = Southern African Development Community, COMESA = Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, AMU = Arab Maghreb Union, ECOWAS = Economic Community for the Development of West African States and ECCAS = Economic Community of Central Africa States

<sup>4</sup> There is a similarity of convergence criteria in the two economic zones: the budget balance, the inflation rate, the debt ratio, the level of domestic and external arrears

<sup>5</sup> As is often the case with the discovery and production of petroleum and gold ores



the sector or branch of industry is no longer the same in the event of a significant change in the quality of the goods and services of that sector or branch of activity;

- Evolution of international benchmarks (adoption of the 2008 SNA, revision of the Balance of Payment Manual (BPM) and Global External Position (GEP) 6 in 2008, Handbook on Public Finance Statistics in 2014 or adoption of new classifications of activities and products (ISIC rev4, CPC rev.2). These documents fundamentally change certain concepts, methods of calculation and often the field of coverage. A change in the base year is necessary to comply with the new standards;
- International Comparison Program for Africa (ICP-Africa) in which are committed almost all African countries requires quality economic data expressed in a recent and consistent reference, and especially in terms of GDP expenditure. The price system must be derived from a structured description to ensure comparability at the international level;
- Availability of new data sources. The organization of large data collection operations such as the Population and Housing Census (PHC), General Business Census (GBS), General Agricultural Census (GAC), Budget Consumption Survey (BCS) is an opportunity to update old data that may be out of date;
- Continuous expansion of the informal sector in the sub-region requires the change of the base year to take into account the new dynamics;
- Willingness to take into account the orientations of the new national development plans in the national accounts evaluation system with the new and often more ambitious investment programs;
- Correction of past errors found during the execution of the old database. No device can be perfect but everything depends on the magnitude of the errors found. Since the method, the concept, or the addition of new data cannot be changed during the base period, rebasing provides an opportunity to correct past technical errors.

#### When should the base year be changed?

At the international level, the recommendation is to adopt the periodicity of 5 years, without exceeding 10 years. The 5-year periodicity is often cited as a standard because it corresponds to the periodicity recommended for carrying out large periodic surveys, and therefore the availability of up-to-date data. However, in practice, the Countries of the sub region have difficulty to respect this periodicity of 5 years for several reasons including the financial costs, the enormous technical and human means of the rebasing exercise and especially the unavailability of the data necessary to conduct such an operation.

#### What is the profile of an ideal base year?

Several criteria are considered in the choice of an ideal base year, but we will mention here four main ones:

- A stable socio-political year. The interdependence between the socio-political situation and the economic situation is very strong. An unstable socio-political year has a significant impact on macroeconomic performance, more or less depending on the case. Most strikingly, this is an exceptional situation from which to refer to building national accounts entails significant risks of incoherence when the situation returns to normal. An example is the election year where, for example, economic activities may be down because of the uncertainty of the future. Exceptional public spending may explode because of the election campaign. It would be risky to keep such a year as a base year, especially since elections do not happen every year;
- normal economic year; we must avoid years of great economic shock as is often the case for example with oil shocks for countries whose economy is dependent on oil revenue. It is clear that a year like 2014 is inappropriate for most Central African countries as it is a year of economic recession in most of them following the sharp drop in the price of a barrel of oil. This situation has upset the economic bases of these countries whose exports are highly dependent on oil. Another very illustrative example, a year of severe drought or flood in a given country does not correspond to the ideal profile of a base year;
- year not far away; the disadvantage of choosing a year too far away as a base year is the heavy workload of national accountants experts to catch up with the past accounts before producing the recent accounts and being up to date. Moreover, the foundation of the exercise of referring to the structures and levels of the economy that reflect the most recent reality cannot be respected. Indeed, rely on surveys dating from a year remote is similar to the acceptance to work on obsolete bases;
- Year where there is a possibility of having complete sources of information; a base year consumes many data. For this reason, it is often advised that the base year corresponds to the year when there are major data collection operations: PHC, GBS, GAC, survey1-2-3, or derived surveys, etc.;
- National accountants are advised to propose a list of candidate years (2-4) and to outline the advantages and disadvantages of each of them. At the end, the year with the minimum number of disadvantages and maximum benefits relative to the national context will.

#### What are the different stages of the rebasing of the national accounts system?

There are eight major stages of relining:

**Step 1:** Development of a rebasing project document. This document is essential as it gives visibility to the work to be done and expresses the will and strategic options for

national accounts indicators. It fits perfectly into the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). The document contains several sections: diagnosis (institutional, organizational, human, technical and material), international recommendations for the rebasing, foundations, principles and scope, strategic axes and objectives, action plan (chronogram of activities and budgeting), implementation mechanism and success and risk factors;

**Step 2:** Elaboration of the classifications of activities and products:

The starting point of any statistical activity is the establishment of a classification because it allows to organize any statistical information. It is a consistent and homogeneous classification tool for economic activities. The nomenclature is an integrated framework in which economic data can be collected, processed and disseminated in a form adapted to the needs of the economic analysis. For AFRISTAT Member States, there are the NAEMA Rev1 and NOPEMA Rev1 nomenclatures adopted by the Member States in 2011 and which countries must adapt to national economic specificities. The classifications of activities and products for the tasks of national accountants are derived from these national classifications. It is indeed necessary to establish a linkable from the national classification to the national accounts classification and a linkable from the old national account classification and the new basic nomenclature in view to facilitating the retropolation work.

**Step 3:** Mobilization of data sources

Without comprehensive baseline data, no compilation of national accounts is possible. This is why the mobilization of data sources is an important step in the rebasing. The sources of the data range from the primary sector to the tertiary sector through the secondary sector. It focuses on the highly evolving sources of non-financial corporations (statistical and fiscal statements of companies), financial corporations (banks and insurance companies), general government, balance of payments and foreign trade, household consumption, informal activities, domestic services and imputed rents, Non-Profit Institutions in the Household Service (NPISH), tasks by branch of activity, etc. During the data collection phase, AFRISTAT advises the establishment of cooperation protocols where special formal relations based on written agreements with the administrative or private institutions guaranteeing access to their data, but also in return the transmission in their favor statistical indicators produced by the National Statistics Office (data exchange) as soon as they are available and official. During this phase, the focus is on the integration of the new sources of data, which can be: employment and the informal sector surveys, agricultural surveys, business censuses and derived surveys, surveys on Non Profit Institutions, household consumption expenditure surveys, trade and transport margin surveys, etc.

**Step 4: Compilation of national accounts**

This step consists of auditing, processing and analyzing the data collected for consolidation and production of national accounts. Given the multitude of operations and their complexity, a well-developed tool is essential to produce all the results. In the AFRISTAT zone, all Member States use the ERETES tool and it is also recommended by the African Union to other countries. It is noted here that the ERETES is a computer system to assist in the preparation of annual national accounts in accordance with the 2008 SNA. It allows to edit a series of worksheets to accompany the development process. This phase consists of several stages (processing and loading of source data, pre-arbitration, decentralized work for SUT, branch accounts, and Who-to-Who matrices, transversal work, synthesis, works on the current year).

Once the national accounts for the base year are produced, one or two current years should be continued to ensure the robustness of the results obtained before publishing the official results. There is therefore a period of transition from intense programming work in which the production of national accounts according to the old base continues in parallel with that of the new base not yet formalized. At the end of this transition period, which can last two to three years, the new results can be validated, adopted and published. This milestone marks the departure of a new and unique series of national accounts for the country.

**Step 5: Measure the impacts of rebasing**

The results of rebasing being available, it is advisable to measure its impacts before the publication of the results in order to answer any questions users may have. The measurement of the impacts concerns several aspects: revisions of the statistical sources, revisions of the methods of estimations, revisions of the concepts of the SNA, revisions of nomenclatures, corrections of past errors, taking into account of various phenomena (fraud, drugs, informal, etc.) according to their importance in the economy.

**Step 6: Analysis, validation and publication of the results of the rebasing of the national accounts**

The results are available and their robustness validated, we can proceed to their analysis, validation and official publication during a public dissemination ceremony where the authorities, the media, the users, the producers of the basic data, the technical and financial partners (in short, all the actors in the national statistical system) are invited.

**Step 7: Retropolation works:**

The retropolation step is started immediately after the validation of the rebasing data in order to have a relatively homogeneous series of national accounts; Recall that a retropolation is an operation that consists in extending

the new base in the past, that is, recalculating the series of the old base according to the frames of the new base. This retropolation operation is essential to ensure data consistency, to integrate the new data in the old database data system and also to apply new and better quality estimation methods to the data of the old database. The value of having a long time series lies in the work of macroeconomic policy making, macroeconomic modeling and research activities.

**Step 8: Possible and desirable extension to quarterly national accounts, financial, asset and satellite accounts:**

The rebasing data will lead to a revision of the series of quarterly national accounts, financial accounts, balance sheets and satellite accounts in case the country produces these different accounts from the old base.

**What are the technical, socio-economic and political consequences of rebasing?**

The rebasing of the System of national accounts (SNA) has multifaceted repercussions, direct or indirect, and it affects the technical, economic and social dimensions as well. On a technical level, in addition to the retropolation of the series of aggregates made unavoidable by the rebasing exercise and already mentioned in step 7 of the compilation of national accounts, rebasing also entails the modification of the economic structure, more or less affects the main economic aggregates including Gross Domestic product (GDP), the Human development Index (HDI) and all the ratios denominated in GDP (savings rate, debt ratio, tax rate, current accounts, etc.). These aggregates are the main elements for measuring economic and social progress, but above all, they are instruments of national, regional, continental and international planning. The conditions of access to concessional resources and the use of market-price financing are intimately dependent on the results of the rebasing. The most illustrative example is Nigeria's ranking as Africa's top economy after rebasing in 2012 (Nigeria's GDP grew by 90% from its 1990 base). This sharp rise in the readjustment of Nigerian GDP is due, among other things, to the expansion of the telecommunications sector and the booming film industry in this country.

The ranking of countries in terms of "low-income countries", "middle-income countries" or "high-income countries" is based on GDP per capita and therefore a country can change class after rebasing. The economic relations, international social and monetary policies are directly affected. This was the case, for example, with the rebasing of Ghana's national accounts in 2009, when the revised GDP increased by more than 60% compared to its estimate according to the old reference. In AFRISTAT member states, even if rebasing cases did not move the economic lines dramatically, as in Nigeria or in Ghana, for example, the national account rebasing in Cameroon (baseline change 1999 to 2005 with partial implementation of the 2008 SNA recommendations) and Senegal (base change 1999 to

2014) increased current GDP by 8.2% and 29.8%, respectively. The repercussions do not stop at the national level because studies conducted by the WAEMU Commission revealed that rebasing in Senegal increased the GDP of the WAEMU zone by 4.5%, reduces the budget balance of the zone by 0.1 percentage point, reduce the ratio of debt to GDP of the area by 1.6 points, and decrease the tax revenue to GDP ratio of the area by 0.7 points. We also know that the programs of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with the different countries are based on these indicators or their commitments to respect these criteria during the program period. These criteria are often similar to those of convergence (debt ratio, growth rate, amount of domestic and external arrears, budget deficit, current account deficit, reserve amount, etc.).

The indicators for monitoring the SDGs are dependent on the results of rebasing. The poverty line set by the World Bank at \$ 1.25 per capita per day is based on the ratio of consumer expenditures to the size of the population. A rebasing affects consumer expenditures and therefore can shift the incidence of poverty, which is the proportion of people living on less than US \$ 1.25 a day. In addition, the interventions of the partners in the area of health (WHO), education and culture (UNESCO), housing (UN-Habitat) and others are often linked to the share of the budget or the GDP granted by the governments to these different sectors. A reassessment of GDP can therefore affect the scale and duration of the interventions of these partners.

Politically, rebasing affects the basis of governments' development agreements with their partners (TFPs) and especially the Breton Wood institutions that are the IMF and the World Bank. Thus, misunderstandings between national accounts staff and national political authorities often arise when the level of GDP resulting from rebasing is not that expected by the authorities to enable them to enter into negotiations, especially in terms of debt policy. Indeed, a low debt ratio (debt / GDP) opens access to new loans to meet the many social and infrastructural needs that countries face. These kinds of difficulties are easily surmountable if the methodologies for compiling national accounts are transparent and explained to those who are entitled to them. When there is no consensus between the technicians, the donors and the political authorities, the result is a regrettable situation of non-validation of the rebasing results and thus the non-formalization of the new data. What human, financial and material resources are spent for almost no impact in this case!

**What does the success of a base year change exercise depend on?**

The success of rebasing in a country depends on several parameters including the will of the political authorities, the support of the hierarchy, the qualitative and quantitative availability of human, material and financial resources, the motivation of the executives involved in the rebasing exercise, the involvement of all

actors in the national statistical system (NSS) and the adaptation and coordination of technical and financial support from development partners. The use of an adapted computer tool as ERETES can be an asset.

We recapitulate below the situation of rebasing of the national accounts in the 22 AFRISTAT countries plus DR Congo. While efforts are being made to update the national accounts

bases, it should be noted that the situation is very heterogeneous in the AFRISTAT area. WAEMU member countries are clearly ahead in harmonizing statistics and updating national accounts databases. These good relative performances are due to the existence of several statistical programs carried out by the WAEMU Commission, the most recent of which is the RSP 2015-2018. This program aims at both the implementation of the 2008 SNA, the pro-

duction of quarterly national accounts (QNA) and the adoption of the classifications of activities and products. In addition to the project to harmonize the price index, the CEMAC zone also has several projects in the process of being formulated to assist its member states in updating their national accounts systems. Such projects are very encouraging and strongly, their materialization.

**Table 1 : The rebasing of the national accounts status in AFRISTAT area**

	N°	country	Previous base year	Current base year	Number of years separating two base years	Migration to the 2008 SNA
WAEMU	1	Benin	2007	2015	8 years	Yes with one current year
	2	Burkina Faso	1999	2014	15 years	Yes with one current year
	3	Côte d'Ivoire	1996	2014	More than 20 years	In progress
	4	Guinée Bissau	2005	2015	10 years	Yes with one current year 2016
	5	Mali	1997	2015	More than 20 years	In progress
	6	Niger	2006	2015	10 years	Yes with a few current years
	7	Senegal	1999	2014	15 years	Yes with two current years (2015 and 2016)
	8	Togo	2007	2016	19 years	In progress
CEMAC	9	Cameroon	1989	2005	16 years	Yes with many available current years
	10	Central African Republic	1987	2005	18 years	project
	11	Congo	1990	2005	15 years	project
	12	Gabon	1996	2001	5 years	project
	13	Equatorial Guinea	1996	2006	10 years	project
	14	Chad	1995	2005	10 years	In progress
Other AFRISTAT member states	15	Burundi	1996	2005	9 years	In progress
	16	Cabo Verde	1980	2007	27 years	In progress
	17	Comores	1990	2007	17 years	project
	18	Djibouti	2008	2013	5 years	Yes with two available current years 2014 and 2015
	19	Guinea	2003	2006	3 years	project
	20	Madagascar	1984	2007	23 years	project
	21	Mauritania	1998	2014	16 years	Yes with two available current years 2015 and 2016
	22	São Tomé and Príncipe	2001	2008	7 years	Project
Non Member States	23	Congo, Dem. Rep.	1987	2005	18 years	Project
Average time to change base year in Afristat area					<b>14 years</b>	

Source: AFRISTAT and States concerned

## Visits

### VISIT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL IN TOGO

■ The Director General of AFRISTAT was received on November 12, 2018 by Mr. Kossi Assimaidou, the Minister of Development Planning assisted by his close associates. Discussions focused on the measures taken by Togo to pay contributions to the AFRISTAT Fund and on the technical assistance activities carried out by AFRISTAT in favor of the National Statistical System of Togo.

Mr. Koame Kouassi, Director General of INSEED Togo, took part in this hearing.



*Visit of the Director General in Togo*

### VISIT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL IN CHAD

■ Mr. Cosme Vodounou, Director General of AFRISTAT carried out on 3 and 4 December 2018 a resource mobilization mission to the Chadian authorities. He was received by Mr. Hissein Tahir Sougouni, Secretary of State of Ministry of Economy and Development Planning of Chad. Previously, he had a working session with Mr. Nour Goukouni Nour, Director General of the National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) of Chad.



*Visit of the Director General in Chad*

### COURTESY AND WORKING VISIT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL IN CONGO

■ The Director General of AFRISTAT was received in audience by Mrs. Ebouka Babackas Ingrid Olga Ghislaine, Minister of Planning, Statistics and Regional Integration of Congo as part of her resource mobilization mission. Mr. Gabriel Batsanga, Director General of NSO Congo, took part in this meeting.



*Visit of the Director General in Congo*

### VISIT OF A DELEGATION OF THE NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING OFFICE (NETO) OF GABON

■ A delegation from the National Employment and Training Office (NETO) of Gabon was received at the hearing on November 30, 2018 in AFRISTAT by Mr. Paul-Henri Nguema Meye, Deputy Director-General, assisted by Mr. Madior Fall and Adéchian Djabar, respectively expert in Agricultural statistics and climate change and expert in sociodemographic statistics. Mr. Jean Bosco Obame Ndong, Director-General of NETO of Gabon, led the mission, which also included Mr. Jean Josselin Ibouili, legal adviser to the Minister of Labour, Mr. Hermann Sallah Ole and Ms. Carène Leslie Obame, execu-

tives at the NETO. Mr. Obame Ndong has exposed to AFRISTAT the technical assistance needs by the NETO for the installation of a labour market information system and for accompanying them to the completion of their next employment and informal sector survey scheduled in 2019. After marking the availability of the Observatory to accompany NETO of Gabon in carrying out their activities, Mr. Nguema Meye informed his interlocutors of the modalities of collaboration to be favoured in order to guarantee the best results.



*Visit of a delegation of NETO to AFRISTAT*



## WORKING VISIT OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL IN FRANCE

■ On October 2, 2018, Mr Paul-Henri Nguema Meyé, deputy Director-general of AFRISTAT, was received in working session in Paris by Mr Jean Luc Tavernier, Director-General of Insee. During the meeting attended by Mrs Constance Torrelli, in charge of cooperation programs at Insee, the two parties exchanged essentially on the state of their bilateral cooperation which they considered satisfactory.

■ Mr Paul-Henri Nguema Meyé, deputy director general of AFRISTAT, held a working meeting on October 4, 2018 at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEFA) in Paris. The latter took

place with Mr. Hatem Chakroun, assistant deputy director of development, in the presence of Mr. Jonathan Thebault, economist/statistician in charge of official development assistance (ODA) at the Development Directorate at MEFA. The main focus of the discussions was on the replacement of the international technical Expert whose duration of assignment to AFRISTAT had come to an end and on France's contribution to the AFRISTAT 2016-2025 Fund. The two parties agreed to inform each other of the results of the initiatives that they agreed to carry out at the end of their exchanges.



*Deputy Director General of AFRISTAT in the company of the Director General of Insee following the hearing in Paris*

## NOMINATION AT INSTAT MALI

Arouna Sougané holds a PhD in Economics from Paris Dauphine University. Recruited to the Public Service since January 2000, he has climbed all the levels of the statistical administration in Mali: first in charge of statistics at the Regional Directorate of Planning and Statistics (DRPS) of Gao, then successively responsible for methods and statistical analysis and head of methods section at the National Directorate of Statistics and Informatic (DNSI), then Head of the Coordination Unit and Technical and Institutional Cooperation at the National Institute of Statistics and finally Director General of the Training and Development Center Advanced Statistics (CFP-STAT). Since October 24, 2018, he is the Director General of the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT).

He participated in the design and implementation of several household surveys. He is a co-author of several articles among which we can mention: Multiple dimensions of poverty, Governance and Democracy: the point of view of the Malian population DT DIAL /2008-06; Associative Mobilization and Politics of Malian Citizens: Socio-Economic and Regional Disparities, CEPES/INSTEAD PAPERS N°2010-08; Multidimensional Poverty and Living Conditions in Mali (2001-2006) PPMA 11262; Citizen participation in Mali: between associative mobilization and political commitment, Social Link and Policies, n° 71, 2014,



# Activities of the Directorate General

## Workshop on short-term economic situation for the second semester 2018 and macroeconomic forecasts 2018-2019 in West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) member States, in Guinea and

AFRISTAT, AFRITAC West and the WAEMU Commission organized the 2018 second semester traditional workshop on short term economic situation and forecasts for WAEMU member states, Guinea and Mauritania. The workshop took place in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on November 26-30, 2018 and focused on the topic "Time series seasonal adjustment".

All countries were represented by participants respectively in charge of short term economic analysis and macroeconomic forecast. The Central Bank of the Republic of Guinea (CBRG), the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO), the West Africa Sub-regional Office of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA) were also represented. An expert from the National

Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of France (INSEE) was in charge of "Time series seasonal adjustment" training.

The workshop helped to build capacity of 30 participants on the topic "Time series seasonal adjustment" with practical cases using the JDemetra + software and on short-term macroeconomic analysis and forecast.

## Workshop on short-term economic situation for the second semester 2018 and macroeconomic forecasts 2018-2019 in Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) member States, in DRC, Burundi, Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, Djibouti and Madagascar

The workshop on short-term economic situation for the second half of 2018 and macroeconomic forecasts in member States took place from 03 to 07 December 2018 in Douala, Cameroon. The central topic theme chosen by the organizers AFRISTAT, AFRITAC Center and CEMAC Commission, focused on the challenges of nation-

al accounts rebasing for the macroeconomic framework. It provided a coherent direction for the regional economic outlook in the second half of 2018 and its short-term forecasts. During this workshop, the experts from AFRISTAT, AFRITAC-Center, BEAC, ECA Central Africa Office and the CEMAC Commission strengthened the capacity

of around 20 participants on national accounts rebasing and macroeconomic framework. The experts presented several papers in the current context of the migration to the 2008 SNA. Two experts of WAEMU Commission participated at the workshop for experience sharing.

## Convention execution of statistical work WAEMU-RSP - 2015-2020

*During the period under review, activities relating to the survey component continued with support for data clearance and the finalization of the programs for calculating the indicators and producing the analysis tables. Technical assistance missions in the fields of business statistics and national accounts were also organized.*

### Business Statistics Component

■ Mr. Roland Frederic Ngampana, expert of AFRISTAT in charge of the business statistics conducted the missions respectively in Burkina Faso in September 3-13, 2018 and in Togo from September 23- October 05, 2018 for the treatment of data of the basic survey and calculation of the renovated IPI.

These missions allowed to treat the available data, to elaborate the calculation application of the renovated IPI and to calculate the temporary renovated IPI. They have also allowed the establishment of the business statistics registers of industrial enterprises for the regular production needs of the IPPI and the renovated IPI.

The missions in Niger and Guinea Bissau were conducted by Mr Seïdina Oumar and Mr Maxime Nagnhounou, AFRISTAT associate experts respectively in November 26 December 07, 2018 and from December 03-14, 2018, for the treatment of data of the basic survey and calculation of the renovated IPI. Temporary renovated IPIs were also calculated.

In addition, the expert of AFRISTAT in charge of the business statistics, Roland Frederic NGAMPANA, conducted the missions respectively in Côte d'Ivoire in November 12-23, 2018 and in Benin from December 10-21, 2018 for the treatment of data of qualitative opinion survey in industry and the calculation of weighted balances of opinion. These missions allowed to implement the small

samples of the industries in Côte d'Ivoire and in Benin and to calculate the adjustments coefficients based on the added values from the national accounts. These missions have also allowed the development of the application of the treatment of data and the calculation of weighted indicators of qualitative of opinion survey (% Rise, % Stable, % Down, Balances). These qualitative indicators of opinion have been calculated.

### National account component

■ From 12 to 16 November 2018 in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), Mr. Ibrahima Sory, expert in national accounts, moderated a regional workshop organized jointly by the WAEMU Commission and AFRISTAT, as part of the activities of the WAEMU-RSP 2015-2020. The theme of the workshop was: "Review of the work of changing the national accounts base year and the transition to the 2008 SNA in Member States and perspectives". It provided an opportunity to take stock of the production of national accounts in the Union member countries and to have prospects for improving the quality of national accounts according to the international standards in force (2008 SNA).

The main achievements of this work include: (i) knowledge of the state of production of the national accounts in the various States; (ii) identification of the main difficulties impeding the implementation of RSP in the national accounts area; (iii) the identification of good practices in the compilation of national accounts; (iv) the definition

of prospects for the efficient production of national accounts (annual and quarterly) within the Union.

■ Mr. Serge Jean Edi, Senior Economist Expert, participated in the Regional Exchange Workshop on Social Accounting Matrices (SAM) organized by the WAEMU Commission held from November 21 to 23, 2018 in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso). This workshop, which brought together two executives for WAEMU member State, the BCEAO, the WAEMU Commission and AFRISTAT, made it possible to present the great results obtained in the construction of the SAM with a view to do dissemination and sharing of experiences. All WAEMU countries have finalized their SAM and drafted a methodological document with the exception of Mali and Côte d'Ivoire.

The capacity-building project for the preparation of the SAM made it possible to train a total of 222 participants from the WAEMU countries in two workshops per country.

### Survey component

■ During the fourth quarter, the activities of the Survey component continued with support for data cleaning and the finalization of the programs for calculating the indicators and producing the analysis tables for the benefit of the country teams in order to harmonize the production phase of the analysis tables.

During this quarter, experts Djabar Dine Adechian and Sansan Kambou carried out support missions to stabilise the data and produced the analysis



tables on employment and the informal sector.

Regarding the informal sector, some tables are available, but the additional cleaning of the data

before the calculation of informal sector aggregates is being finalized at the level of all countries. Analysis of the employment report data started at the country level.

The preparation of the analysis and tabulation plan of the regional report and the report on the governance, peace and security module is being finalized at the AFRISTAT level.

## Project of harmonized consumer price index (HCPI) in the member States of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)

*The period under review was marked by training and supervision missions in the countries.*

Mr. Claude Tchamda, expert in price statistics, visited Brazzaville (Republic of Congo) and Bangui (Central African Republic) respectively from 3 to 14 September and from 15 to 24 October 2018. The specific objective of these missions was to train the personnel in charge of the implementation of the harmonized consumer price index (HCPI) in the member States of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) to using PHOENIX-UEMOA software. These mis-

sions also helped to build capacity in price statistics for the project's staff in these countries. A database prepared for the continuation of the parameterization and initialization integrating the new national coverage of the index has been installed on the server made available to the price department in each of the two States. The remaining tasks were identified, including the finalization of the list of outlets and their crossing with the selected products being priority.

The expert in price statistics also visited Malabo (Equatorial Guinea) from 3 to 7 December 2018. The aim was to evaluate the use of the Phoenix-UEMOA application since its installation in 2016 and ensure that the activities carried out comply with the survey plan adopted during the mission to define the geographical scope of the harmonized consumer price index (HCPI) for Equatorial Guinea.

## Capacity Building Project in Chad

*The National Institute of Statistics, Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) of Chad signed an agreement with AFRISTAT in September 2018, on the improvement and production of economic statistics, more specifically in the areas of national accounts and business statistics. This agreement is part of the upgrading and strengthening of its National Statistical System (NSS) for which Chad has negotiated with the World Bank a medium-term statistical development program (PDST 2017-2022).*

As such, during the last quarter of 2018, two support missions were carried out in national accounts and business statistics:

For the national account component, Ibrahima Sory, expert in national accounts, visited N'Djamena from 15 to 25 October 2018. The work of the mission made it possible to (i) make the diagnosis of the national accounts; (ii) present the appropriate framework of work to be put in place; (iii) identify sources of data and prepare

technical documents for specific surveys; (iv) set up national accounts nomenclatures for the ERETES module and (v) facilitate the awareness workshop of the partner and source data generating structures. An agenda for the next actions to be realized has been produced.

With regard to business statistics, Mr. Roland Frédéric Ngampama, AFRISTAT expert in charge of business statistics, visited N'Djamena from 3 to 6

December 2018. The work of the mission allowed the training of executives on the construction cost index (CCI) process, to characterize the different types of residential housing that exist in the major cities of Chad and to meet with building professionals. During this mission, a general information questionnaire for building professionals and a roadmap for further work on the establishment of CCI were developed.

## AfDB Statistical Capacity Building Program (AfDB SCBP) IV.2

*Statistical capacity building for the benefit of the Member States focused on price statistics and national accounts during the fourth quarter of 2018. The domain of the conjuncture, the NSDS and AFRISTAT visibility actions were covered in a comprehensive way.*

■ Technical assistance missions to facilitate the availability of good quality data in countries participating in the International Comparison program Cycle 2017 were supported by AfDB SCBP IV.2. Missions in the field of price statistics went to Burkina Faso, Guinea, Madagascar and Mauritania. While those related to national accounts have spread to Cameroon and Gabon. The program contributed to the realization of the Workshop on short-term economic situation of the second half of 2018 of the countries of Central Africa by allowing experts Serge Jean Edi and Symphorien Tabo, respectively senior economist and national accountant, to participate in its animation. The seminar, which focused on the issues and challenges of relocating national accounts for the macroeconomic framework, was

held in Douala, Cameroon from 3 to 7 December 2018.

Accompanying Guinea Bissau in the development of its NSDS 2018-2020 with the mission to Bissau by Mr. Dodji V. Silété Adogli, expert in strategic planning and results-based management. This took place from 05 to 13 October 2018 and consisted in supporting the good organization of the validation workshop of the NSDS in preparation.

Finally, in terms of visibility, the Observatory was able to carry out the following actions, thanks to AfDB SCBP IV.2:

- Representation of AFRISTAT at the 13th African Symposium for Statistics Development (ASSD) and at the annual mee-

ting of the African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources Development (AGROST) held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from 1 to 4 October, 2018;

- Participation in the regional seminar on macroeconomic and fiscal analysis organized by Afritac West, held in Cotonou (Benin) from 12 to 16 November 2018;
- Translation into English of the AFRISTAT 2017-2021 strategic work program to ensure wide dissemination and especially to make it accessible to non-French speaking countries.

## International Comparison Program for Africa 2017 (2017 ICP Africa)

*During the fourth quarter of 2018, AFRISTAT conducted 2017 ICP-Africa monitoring activities in the area under its supervision. These activities covered both technical aspects such as work on price statistics and national accounts and administrative and financial aspects of the program.*

■ During the period under review, AFRISTAT alone or in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB) carried out supervision missions in 6 countries. On the AFRISTAT side, these missions were carried out by Mr Paul-Henri Nguema Meyé, Deputy Director General,

Yankhoba Jacques Badji, expert in price statistics, and Tabo Symphorien Ndong, expert in national accounts. The countries concerned are for the most part those who have been late in submitting data or have administrative difficulties. These missions covered the following countries :

- Mauritania: AFRISTAT-AfDB joint mission from 08 to 13 October 2018;
- Guinea: AFRISTAT-AfDB joint mission from 15 to 19 October 2018;
- Gabon: AFRISTAT mission from October 30 to November 08, 2018;

- Madagascar: AFRISTAT-AfDB joint mission from 5 to 9 November 2018;
- Burkina Faso: AFRISTAT-AfDB joint mission from 19 to 27 November 2018;
- Cameroon: AFRISTAT mission from 26 to 30 November 2018.

With regard to the consumer price component, the work of the mission focused on the training of the officers in charge of the program on data collection tools and assistance with the data review. It focused on recurring problems and outliers or suspicious data. The mission also supported the NSOs in the recovery of ICP-CPI common products.

For national accounts activities, the work related to the review of housing surveys, private education and the survey of the compensation of public employees in countries that had already carried out field operations. The mission trained the NSO staff on the tools of the specific surveys (housing,

compensation of public employees and private education) of the ICP-Africa 2017 and actually launch the said surveys in the countries where they did not start. Data sources for GDP decomposition and MORES filling were processed. Guidance was provided for the filling of missing information. MORES 2014, 2015 and 2016 draft versions were made available during the mission in some countries.

The mission relaunched the activities of 2017 ICP-Africa which were at half-mast in Madagascar and Burkina Faso. These activities will continue with the collection of data for different surveys in November and December 2018 and the decomposition of GDP. It has reduced the gap observed in the submission of data on consumer prices of households in the countries visited. Finally a schedule of implementation of the remaining activities was agreed with the NSOs visited.

From the administrative and financial point of view, the fourth quarter is characterized by the provision of funds for the second tranche for those countries that justified up to 80% of the funds received during the first batch. The countries concerned are Cameroon, Comoros, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cabo Verde, Gabon and Tunisia.

The work of the supervision missions made it possible to solve the difficulties of execution of the program in the countries visited. Thus, in Burkina Faso, the traces of the funds paid by AFRISTAT whose INSD could not locate were found while in Madagascar, the country to complete the administrative file concerning the appointment of the members of the Program management. On the Mauritanian side, the administrative and financial part has been updated by transmitting the documents requested by AFRISTAT on the vouchers of the first tranche.

## FAO Project for the improvement of agricultural and rural statistics

*The fourth quarter of 2018 marked the end of the FAO project for the improvement of agricultural and rural statistics in accordance with the memorandum of understanding governing it. Most of the programmed activities were carried out and the Observatory actively participated in the closing seminar of the first phase of the global strategy.*

■ Taking into account the agreement of the Global Strategy office in Rome, Mrs. Madior Fall and Amsata Niang, respectively expert in agricultural statistics and climate change at AFRISTAT and global Strategy consultant posted at AFRISTAT, moderated from 1 to 5 October 2018, a regional training workshop for the compilation of the food Balance sheets in Arusha, Tanzania on behalf of the AfDB. The workshop mainly concerned English-speaking countries (Tanzania, Kenya, Gambia, South Sudan, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia), some francophone countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Mali), representatives of the African Union and the WAEMU Commission.

• A technical assistance mission was carried out in Praia (Cabo Verde) from 8 to 19 October 2018 for the finalization of data analyses of the two surveys on rainfed crops and irrigated crops and the validation of results during a National workshop. It was led by Mr. Madior Fall, expert in agricultural

statistics and climate change, and Mrs. Audrier Sanou and Naman Keita both consultants of the global strategy placed at AFRISTAT.

■ Mr. Paul Henri Nguema Meye, Deputy Director-General of AFRISTAT, conducted a supervisory mission to Antananarivo, Madagascar from 5 to 9 November 2019 to assess the extent to which the FAO project for the improvement of agricultural and rural Statistics has met the expectations of the Malagasy people. It is noted that everything went well and that Madagascar was in need of seeking AFRISTAT accompaniment in the conduct of its next general agricultural census in preparation.

■ From 14 to 16 November 2018, Paul-Henri Nguema Meye and Madior Fall participated in the closing seminar of the first phase of the global Strategy, held in Rome, Italy. This meeting was an opportunity to make the final situation of the implementation of the project and to draw the

lessons. The latter largely inspired the draft second phase that was presented to the seminar participants.

The mandate of all FAO consultants who were on the project and based at Bamako ended in AFRISTAT during the month of November 2018.



## Project to support the monitoring of sustainable development goals in Africa (SODDA)

*The project to support the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa (SODDA) enabled the organization of the regional Workshop on the mapping of the SDGs and its second steering committee. Four countries were able to carry out their leaflets presenting the adopted mapping approach and some SDGs indicators followed.*

■ The project organised from 1 to 3 October 2018 in Paris (France), with the material and financial support of Insee, a workshop on the mapping of the SDGs. The main objective of the meeting was to help countries to identify available indicators and to eventually produce dissemination media for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs. The animation of the workshop was carried out by experts from AFRISTAT, Insee and Expertise France and the countries represented were: Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Mali, Chad and Togo. The statistical Schools of Abidjan

(ENSEA) and Yaoundé (ISSEA) were also represented.

■ The second Steering Committee of the SODDA Project was held in Paris on October 4, 2018 under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France. All the statutory members of this forum were present except for the National School of Statistics and economic analysis of Dakar (ENSAE-Dakar). During this meeting, it was: (i) presented the status of implementation of the project activities for the first year of execution, (ii) indicated the activities to be carried

out during the second year of the Project and (iii) addressed the issues related to coordination and Process of useful organizational and budgetary adjustments.

■ The conclusions of the workshop on the mapping were concretized with the production and printing of leaflets on the SDGs for four countries. These tools of communication on the SDGs could be disseminated during the celebration of the African Statistics day in Burundi, Cameroon and Togo.

# OTHERS ACTIVITIES

## Support Missions of AFRISTAT experts

### BENIN

■ The expert in socio-demographic statistics, Mr. Djabar Dine Adechian participated, from November 21 to 29, 2018, in the workshop of finalization of thematic reports of the fifth edition of the Benin Demographic and Health Survey 2017-18 (BDHS-V, 2017-18) organized by the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE). The work of the workshop focused on the analysis of the different tables produced, the observations on the draft report produced by the analysts and the list of indicators for the synthesis report. The expert has exchanged with the country team on the evolution of certain indicators since 1996.

### BURKINA FASO

■ An AFRISTAT mission conducted by Ibrahima Sory, expert in national accounts, was held from 05 to 10 November 2018 in Ouagadougou for technical support to the national accounts. The mission's work took place in the form of an audit and analysis workshop on the quality of the national accounts for the new base year of 2015. The national accounting staff of the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD), experts from partner institutions (World Bank, AFRITAC West, IMF, WAEMU Commission, BCEAO). The work of the mission enabled (i) analysis of the national accounts revision process; (ii) to take stock of the extent to which the recommendations of the 2008 SNA have been taken into account; (iii) to analyze the impacts of the revision; (iv) make relevant recommendations to improve the quality and robustness of the accounts in the new base year.

### BURUNDI

■ Mr. Yankhoba Jacques Badji, Expert in Price Statistics, undertook a technical support mission to Bujumbura from 17 to 22 December 2018 as part of the establishment of a agricultural production price index for Burundi (IPPAB). The third mission was to process the data collected over the last 12 months, assess the quality and correct the inconsistent data.

The data collected over the period from October 2017 to September 2018 have been processed. The time series were made from data regularly observed over the 12 months. At the end of the mission, the average monthly prices were calculated. A model for calculating price indices has been made available to the Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of Burundi (ISTEEBU). It will be updated with the seasonal product weightings data from the seasonality survey that the ISTEEBU will have to carry out. Base prices and test indices were calculated during the mission.

■ From 10 to 14 December 2018, Mr. Paul-Henri Nguema Meye, Deputy Director General of AFRISTAT, carried out a mission to Bujumbura to assess the status of implementation of Burundi's national data Quality Assurance Framework (NDQAF) within the statistical system of this country. Almost two years after the start of the implementation of the Burundi NDQAF, which was developed with the support of AFRISTAT and statistics Canada, it appears that the appropriation of the quality approach within the stakeholders of the Burundi statistical system is a Reality. However, it was recommended to increase awareness, information and training initiatives on NDQAF in order to improve the impact on the quality of data produced by all categories of actors.

### DJIBOUTI

#### ■ Support to the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics of the Djibouti NSDS

The Republic of Djibouti has taken the initiative to draft a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) covering the period 2018-2022. Thus, with funding from the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building, Mr. Oumarou Elhadji Malam Soule, Senior Expert in Institutional Organization of Statistical Systems, led a mission to support the updating of the diagnostic of the statistical system. SSN and the development of the said NSDS. This mission, which was carried out from 05 October to 04 December 2018, made it possible to draw up the following documents:

- i. Report entitled "Comprehensive Diagnosis of the National Statistical System";
- ii. Report titled "NSDS Document 2018-2022" and the NSNB 2018-2022 document summary;
- iii. "Operational Monitoring and Evaluation System for the Implementation of the NSDS 2018-2022";
- iv. Annual Program of Statistical Activities (PAAS) 2019.

### GABON

■ MM. Claude Tchamda and Ndeffo Goupe Guy Ferdinand, respectively expert in price statistics and associate expert at AFRISTAT, visited Libreville and Lambaréné from 6 to 21 November 2018. This mission is part of the implementation of a harmonized consumer price index in Gabon, financed by the Government of Gabon. It made it possible to evaluate the activities carried out since the mission of February 2018 and finalize the lists of products and outlets by region after seven

months of the base-period price surveys. The mission has trained the personnel on how to constitute the lists of products by outlet, and to determine the sample of dwellings for collecting data concerning rental houses and some others household expenses. The process of deriving weights for the price index from the household consumption component of the Gabonese Poverty Assessment and Monitoring Survey of the year 2017 (EGEPII-2017) started during this mission.

■ From 29 November to 7 December 2018, Mr. Ndeffo Goupe Guy Ferdinand, AFRISTAT Associate Expert, visited Libreville and Lambaréné to continue processing the household consumption component of the EGEPII-2017 survey, with a view to generating the weights for this index. This work resulted in the production of Excel files of households' acquisitions (purchase or own consumption) of goods and services, disaggregated according to 'EGEP II' survey strata.

### MALI

■ Mr. Serge Jean Edi, senior economic expert, conducted jointly with Mr. Biaka Djoret Tedang, Resident Advisor in Macroeconomic Analysis and Projections at AFRITAC West, a technical support mission to the National Directorate of Development Planning (NDDP) of Mali. This mission has enabled the integration of the new frameworks of large macroeconomic accounts into the MME-NDDP forecasting model. The update of the formulas has been started. Historical series have been completed for the real sector.

### MAURITANIE

■ Mr. Ibrahima Sory, national accounts expert, carried out a support mission to Nouakchott, from 1 to 11 December 2018, as part of the preparation of the national accounts. This mission is the sixth of the Convention signed in October 2017 between Mauritania NSO and AFRISTAT. The work of the mission has made it possible to: (i) formulate recommendations for the finalization and validation of the national accounts for the first year of 2015; (ii) provide guidance on ongoing retropolation work; (iii) present the AFRISTAT approach for the validation, analysis and dissemination of national accounts results.



# INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

## ■ Attend the 13th Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) and Annual AGROST 2018 Meeting

From October 1st to 4th, 2018, Mr. Oumarou Elhadji Malam SOULE, Senior Expert in Institutional Organization of Statistical Systems, represented AFRISTAT at the 13th Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD), and the annual meeting of African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources development (AGROST) in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia). The 13th Symposium evaluated the progress made and the difficulties encountered in the completion of the 2020 series of population and housing censuses in Africa. During this meeting, African countries were encouraged to implement the 2008 SNA. To this end, Nigeria and Senegal shared their experiences on the renewal of the accounts (change from base year to GDP). These experiences allowed the participants to understand the need for additional efforts needed to revamp national accounts.

This annual meeting of AGROST, which was organized by ECA, made it possible to assess the level of execution of the different programs and training activities implemented during the year 2018. The meeting also listened to the beneficiary's agricultural statistics fellowship program and made recommendations to ECA for the further implementation of this program.

## ■ Study visit to INSEE on the theme of dissemination and communication

Ms. Boukenem Fatima Diallo, communication expert, participated in the study visit organized by INSEE in Paris from 22 to 25 October 2018 on the theme of dissemination and communication. This visit made it possible to have a clear idea of what INSEE is doing in terms of dissemination and communication and to draw on this experience to improve AFRISTAT's visibility through social networks.

A four-day program focused on the general presentation of the dissemination policy at INSEE, the presentation of the website, the publication production process, the INSEE communication strategy in general and social networks in particular.

Participants in this visit came from AFRISTAT and National Statistics Offices of Cameroon, Mali, Niger, Morocco and Tunisia.

## ■ Workshop on household surveys on remittances

Mr. Djabar Dine Adechian, expert in socio-demographic statistics, represented AFRISTAT at the workshop on household surveys on remittances organized by the African Institute for Remittances (AIR) in collaboration with the Bank of Ghana from 29 to 30 October 2018 in Accra, Ghana. This workshop was attended by a dozen countries represented by the NSOs and the respective central banks. Its main objective was to present the

methodological guide and the questionnaire for the implementation of a household survey on remittances.

This workshop also shared the experiences of some countries on the implementation of household surveys on remittances.

## ■ Pedagogical Renovation Workshop of African Schools of Statistics (ASS)

Mr. Serge Jean Edi, senior economic expert, represented AFRISTAT at the workshop of pedagogical renovation of the African Schools of Statistics (ASS) held at ENSEA in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 29 to 31 October 2018. The purpose of this workshop was to review the consultants' proposals for the renovation study, to amend and validate them, and to make suggestions as to the conditions of implementation. The representatives of the African Statistical Schools Network National Statistical Systems (NSS) of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Niger and Togo, AFRISTAT, local authorities territories, Chambers of Commerce, employers and companies, CEPICI and the Ministry of Planning of Côte d'Ivoire took part. The workshop took place in several phases. Following the discussions on the scoping presentations made by the two consultants, the participants examined and made proposals on the Bachelor's, Engineer's and Master's courses, and on the in-service training. The participants also made proposals on how to implement the educational renovation.

## ■ High Level Seminar on Peer Reviews

Mr. Oumarou Elhadji Malam Soule, Senior Expert in Institutional Organization of Statistical Systems, represented the General Directorate at the High Level Seminar on Peer Reviews of African National Statistical Institutes and Systems in 2018 held in Pretoria, South Africa from October 29-31, 2018. The seminar, which was jointly organized by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the European Union, provided an overview of lessons learned and an overview of the process and the methodology for implementing peer reviews organized in some countries in 2018. AFRISTAT reported lessons learned from peer reviews in some of its Member States between 2009 and 2017.

## ■ UNESCO's Technical Advisory Group Meeting on Culture Satellite Accounts

Mr. Madior Fall took part in the first meeting of the members of UNESCO's Technical Advisory Group on Culture Satellite Accounts from October 31 to November 2, 2018 in Tokyo, Japan. At the end of the work, a roadmap has been drawn up for the production of a document that must be presented to the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2020.

## ■ Workshop to assess progress and needs in the implementation of the 2008 SNA

Mr. Serge Jean Edi, Senior Economist Expert, participated in a workshop to assess progress and needs in the implementation of the 2008 SNA, which took place from 07 to 10 November 2018 at the Statistical Institute of the African Union (STATAFRIC) premises in Tunis (Tunisia). It was organized by the African Union Commission (AUC) with the technical and financial support of the European Union through the Pan-African Statistical Program (PAS). Participants included national accountants from twenty-four (24) French-speaking African States, representatives of ECOWAS and the Arab Maghreb Union, a representative of AFRISTAT, and experts and consultants from PAS.

The workshop made recommendations for the implementation of a program of technical support tailored to the needs of Member States for national accounts.

## ■ Seminar on the interrelations between macroeconomic accounts and the robustness of framing models

Mr. Serge Jean Edi, participated in the regional seminar on "The interrelations between the macroeconomic accounts and robustness of the framing models" for the WAEMU countries, Guinea and Mauritania. Organized by AFRITAC West (AFW), this seminar was held in Cotonou (Benin) from 12 to 16 November 2018. All ten (10) Member States were represented by two executives of the Directorate in charge of macroeconomic forecasts and a manager in charge of the budget analysis and forecasts of the Directorate General of the Budget. Representatives of the Central Bank of Guinea, the Central Bank of Mauritania and the BCEAO also took part in the works.

It has made it possible to: (i) Evaluate the institutional arrangements that govern the work of developing macroeconomic frameworks and budget forecasts in the countries covered by AFW as well as tools that are used for this purpose; (ii) Identify good practices and suggest ways to improve the tools, the institutional set-up and the organization of macroeconomic and budgetary forecasts; (iii) Train participants on program budget issues and their implications for macroeconomic framing processes.

## ■ Participation at the 8th edition of the Africities summit

The 8th edition of the Africities Summit took place from 20 to 24 November 2018 in Marrakech (Morocco) under the theme: "Transition to Sustainable Cities and Territories: the role of local and sub-national governments in Africa". Mr. Paul-Henri Nguema Meyé, Deputy Director General, who represented AFRISTAT at these assizes, was the main facilitator of the the-

local level" at the thematic session called: "Leave no one behind by localising the 2030 Agenda". One of the characteristic resolutions of this summit which saw the participation of almost 8 000 delegates coming in majority from local authorities, civil society and Governments is the commitment to achieve "African cities without street children" in the next few years.

#### ■ Attendance First meeting of ShaSA 2 Executive Committee

From 24 to 25 November 2018, Mr. Oumarou Elhadji Malam Soule, Senior Expert in the Institutional Organization of Statistical Systems, represented AFRISTAT at the first meeting of the ShaSA 2 Executive Committee held in Khartoum, Sudan. The meeting, organized by the African Union Commission (AUC), focused on "Promoting the use of African data to tell the

story of Africa". This meeting allowed to review the terms of reference of the ShaSA 2 Executive Committee and the ongoing activities to support the implementation of ShaSA 2 including the Data Quality Assessment Framework for Africa.

#### ■ Ad'hoc meeting of experts on the data revolution in North Africa

By the invitation of the sub-regional Office of the United Nations economic Commission for North Africa, Mr. Paul-Henri Nguema Meye, Deputy Director General of AFRISTAT, participated in the Ad'hoc meeting of experts on the data Revolution in North Africa: putting data at the service of structural transformation. During the meeting, the representative of the Observatory participated actively in the discussions that focused on: (i) the regional profile review on economic and social conditions in North Africa, (ii) the impact for

North Africa of the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area and (iii) the statutory questions. This meeting was also the occasion to launch the preparation of the first report on the realization of the SDGs in Maghreb.

#### ■ Workshop on the dissemination of statistical products

Ms. Boukenem Fatima Diallo, expert in communication, took part in the dissemination workshop of statistical products organized by the African Union and Expertise France, from 18 to 21 December 2018 in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire). This workshop helped NSOs better target their audiences, review current dissemination practices and make recommendations for improving the dissemination of statistical products tailored to user needs through the media and the social networks.



#### ■ BENIN [www.insae-bj.org](http://www.insae-bj.org)

##### African Statistics Day 2018

Like other member states of the African Union, Benin commemorated the African Statistics Day (ASD). Placed under the high sponsorship of the Minister of State, responsible for the Plan and Development. The theme of this edition of the ASD was "High quality official statistics to ensure transparency, good governance and inclusive development". The celebration of this day comes at a time when the Beninese statistical system is undergoing a major overhaul. Indeed, several other actions are also in progress, notably with: i) the finalization of the 3rd edition of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (SNS-3), ii) the drafting of the final report of the 5th edition of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS-5), iii) drafting of the dissemination and communication policy document, iv) implementation of the Regional Statistical Programs initiated by WAEMU, namely: the Integrated Regional Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector (ERI-ESI) and the Harmonized Survey on Household Living Conditions (EHCVM) and v) the collection of data from the first wave of the Survey of Unregistered Foreign Trade (ECENE).

On the menu of this celebration, there were seven presentations, divided into four panels. The first two panels were related to the central

theme. The third panel presented the main results of the statistical work and the last one focused on presentation of the data collection system on the living conditions of households.

#### ■ CAMEROON [www.statistics-cameroon.org](http://www.statistics-cameroon.org)

##### Statistics Month 2018 in Cameroon

From October 20 to November 20, 2018, the Statistical System of Cameroon celebrated the Month of Statistics. October 20th is World Statistics Day (WSD) and November 20th is the date of the creation of the first ever General Service of Statistics in Cameroon.

November 18, African Statistics Day (ASD) falls within this range. This year 2018 corresponds to the 27th edition. Several activities have furnished this month namely: open days at the NSO with the participation of several sectoral administrations, the organization of a conference / debate at the Sub-Regional Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISSEA) of Yaounde under the theme "high-quality official statistics to ensure transparency, good governance and inclusive development", a football match, the holding of the 17th ordinary session of the National Council of Statistics (CNS) and the Communication from the Minister of Economy, Planning and Spatial Planning (MINEPAT) on the theme of the Day.

Two summary documents of the activities marked this 27th edition of the JAS, namely a Leaflet entitled "THE MONTH OF STATISTICS IN CAMEROON in 2018" and the MINEPAT Declaration of Circumstances. They were produced in French and English and distributed to all stakeholders of the National Statistical Information System (SNIS).

#### 17<sup>th</sup> session of the National Statistics Council (NSC)

Government, held its 17th ordinary session on Thursday, November 15, 2018, in Yaoundé. The work was chaired by Mr. Alamine Ousmane MEY, Minister of Economy, Planning and Spatial Planning, Chairman of the Council. The Director General of the National Statistical Institute, assisted by the Deputy Director General, reported on the items on the agenda. Following the President's opening statement, the Council adopted the agenda in three points: (i) Status of implementation of the recommendations of the 16th ordinary session; (ii) Review for validation of the mid-term evaluation report of the NSDS 2015-2020 (NSDS2); and (iii) Points entered for information.

At the end of the work, the Board made several recommendations to the Technical Secretariat, including (i) the costing of reporting the SDGs; (ii) the solicitation of funding for the development in 2019 for each region of Cameroon, a report on the situation of contextualised indicators of the SDGs, (iii) the solicitation of fund-

ing for the implementation of the plan validated by the NSDS (iv) carrying out a study on the strengthening of the NSS in human and financial resources to cover the needs imposed by the implementation of Cameroon's budget reforms and international commitments.

### Third Survey of Employment and the Informal Sector (EESI3)

Cameroon, in its vision of becoming an emerging country by 2035, launched through the NSO, the realization of the Third Survey of Employment and the Informal Sector (EESI 3). The realization of the EESI 3 will make available to the Government of Cameroon, elements enabling it to better adjust its strategy on employment, particularly in terms of reducing unemployment, that will contain the next DSCE, which is being developed.

Following criticism of labor market indicators, particularly in developing countries, the EESI 3 intends to innovate methodologically, in line with the "New Resolution on Labor, Employment and Labor Statistics" of the underutilization of the labor force "adopted in October 2013 at the 19th International Conference of Labor Statisticians (ICOH). The preparatory work for the EESI3 started since the beginning of 2018 were surveyed in September 2018, covering the national territory over a period of two months, and 80 mapping agents, previously trained for six days, were mobilized for this purpose completed in early November 2018. Recruitment of the investigating agents is underway, for the collection phase which should be launched in early 2019. The first results of the EESI3 are expected in the second half of 2019.

■ GABON  
[www.dgstat.ga](http://www.dgstat.ga)

### Continuing work of the Third Demographic and Health Survey (EDSG-III)

Following the mapping phase in the field, the EDSG-III technical committee, with the support of ICF Macro International, conducts the mapping data evaluation for the development of the final sample of the main collection. He also carried out the updating of the manuals and collection procedures in the workshop.

### The official launch of the General Agricultural Census (GAC)

After the pilot survey and the workshop evaluation by the Central Bureau of the General Agricultural Census, the Government of Gabon officially launched this operation. During this ceremony, an inventory of the activities carried out was presented by the national coordinator and the technical coordinator.

### Celebration of the African Statistics Day (ASD)

Celebrated by Gabon on December 11, 2018, the ASD saw the participation of the government, statistical professionals, technical and financial partners and other users of statistics. On the menu for this day, following the speeches of the Minister responsible and the Director General of Statistics, presentations of the results of operations carried out with the support of the World Bank as part of the reform of the national statistical system (NSS). These include the official presentation of the results of the Gabonese Survey for Monitoring and Evaluation of Poverty (EGEP II). This commemoration was also marked by the sensitization of the actors of the NSS on the use of mobile technologies in the collection of data, followed by presentations revolving around the theme of the year, the restitution of certain works of workshops, the visit of stands (reading of publications) and the festive moment.

■ MALI  
[www.instat-gov.ml](http://www.instat-gov.ml)

### African Statistics Day: the statistical community of Mali respects the tradition

Under the leadership of the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT), the National Statistical System (NSS) of Mali celebrated, this Sunday, November 18, 2018, the African Day of Statistics (ASD). The opening ceremony, which mobilized hundreds of people, was chaired by the Minister of Planning and Spatial Planning, Adama Tiémoko Diarra.

The theme of the 28th edition was "High quality official statistics to ensure transparency, good governance and inclusive development". "The theme chosen this year fits perfectly with the vision of an inclusive economic growth of the President of the Republic, His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keita. It also responds to the Strategic Framework for Economic Growth and Sustainable Development (CREDD), for which the promotion of inclusive and sustainable growth, as well as good governance and inclusive development are important axes," said the Minister of Planning and Spatial Planning.

It is traditional for the event to be embellished with a series of activities and messages that highlight the importance of the theme. The day was marked for this purpose by, besides the opening ceremony, a visit of stands, thematic communications. It also served as an opportunity for the Minister of Planning and Spatial Planning to visit a major government project in favor of the statistical community of Mali: the headquarters under construction of INSTAT. It is an architectural jewel, located in Sabalibougou, commune V of the district of Bamako, built on an area of 3700 m<sup>2</sup>. The building is structured around a ground floor surmounted by five levels and has a basement for parking. Estimated at more than six billion CFA francs, its construction is entirely financed by state resources.

### National Statistical System Improvement Program (PASSNM) of Mali under the microscope during a Special Session of the Board of Directors

The directors of INSTAT held, on November 30, 2018, a Special Session of the Board of Directors of the Institute. The meeting was chaired by the Secretary General of its Ministry of Planning and Spatial Planning, Mr. Seydou Moussa Traoré.

This extraordinary session of the Board of Directors is part of a context of implementation of the PASSNM. PASSNM is an investment project, funded through an IDA grant. "It responds to the need of the Government to develop the SSN and to have quality statistics to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of its various programs, specifically the CREDD," said the Secretary General of the Ministry of Planning and Development of the territory.

The PASSNM, which lasts five (5) years, finances the collection, improvement of quality and dissemination of statistical data. These include the mapping of the 5th General Census of Population and Housing, the mapping of the General Census of Economic Units, the study on the quality of the data of the Agricultural Survey of Conjuncture, the dissemination and the analysis of data from the Communal Poverty Index (CPI). The project also finances the development of human resources through the award of training scholarships to the winners of the entrance exams in the statistical training schools of Africa and the support for educational costs and scholarships for non-State students at the Training and Development Center in Statistics. In addition, it contributes to the improvement of INSTAT's legal and institutional framework.

The 2017-2018 fiscal year represents the first year of project implementation. This Board of Directors relates to the review of the Annual Work Plan and Budget for 2019.

■ TOGO  
[www.togostat.org](http://www.togostat.org)

### Celebration of the African Statistics Day in Togo: 2018 edition

The apotheosis of the celebrations of the celebration of the African Statistical Day (ASD), placed this year under the theme: "Official statistics of high quality to ensure transparency, good governance and inclusive development", took place November 19 in Dapaong, capital of the Savannah region, chosen to host the 2018 edition. The aim is to raise awareness of African public opinion on the importance of statistics in the management of development of countries.

The event launching ceremony was chaired by Edjeou Essohanam, Cabinet Director of the



Ministry of Development Planning, who emphasized that the theme of ASD 2018 highlights the central role of good quality official statistics for efficient management of our countries as they strive to meet all the conditions that can lead to strong, sustained and inclusive economic growth that significantly reduces inequality and poverty. The Prefect of Tône, Chimbiandja Yendoukoa Douiti, for his part, was delighted by the choice of his region to host the event.

The assistance was built on the theme of the day and on three other sub-themes namely: the place of statistics in the implementation of the National Development Plan, the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2063 African Union Agenda corruption and its effects on economic development and statistics of national accounts: crucible of all official statistics of quality.

The Director General of the National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED), Mr. Koame Kouassi took the opportunity to bring to the attention of participants, major projects that await the INSEED for the years to come. He cited inter alia the strengthening of the institutional framework, the elaboration of national accounts with a new methodology and a new base year which will be 2016, the preparation of the preparatory work for the next general census of population and housing in 2020, the realization of ad hoc studies, particularly in the context of the implementation of the NDP, the SDGs and the AU 2063 Agenda, the production of current statistics. At the end of the draw, the Plateaux region is chosen to host the 2019 edition of the ASD.

**Data Availability Analysis Report validation workshop for the follow-up of the SDGs, NDP and Agenda 2063**

INSEED, in partnership with the United Nations Development Program, conducted a study on the availability of indicators for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the various agendas adopted by our country, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the National Development Plan 2018-2022 and the 2063 Agenda. This study resulted in the elaboration of a baseline report which was validated on Wednesday, November 7, 2018 during a workshop that brought together delegates from the public and private sectors, civil society and technical and financial partners.

#### **Workshop for validation of Togolese nomenclatures of activities and products (NTA, NTP)**

As part of the process of adapting AFRISTAT's nomenclatures of activities and products to the realities of the Togolese economy, the SSN through INSEED, has drafted a project document of Togolese nomenclatures of activities and products. This document was validated during a workshop that brought together the actors of the SSN, the representatives of the companies as well as those of the civil society and the media on December 6 and 7, 2018 in Lomé.

#### **Basic survey of the Child-Friendly Communities (CFC) initiative**

As part of its child and women's welfare activities, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has launched a basic survey called: Child-Friendly Communities (CFC) according to a Real Time Monitoring (RTM) in the Bassar prefecture. The Bassar prefecture is the implementation zone of the CFC-RTM project while the Keran prefecture is selected as the control zone. This initiative will help address the multiple overlaps of deprivation in children by using the community platform as the main entry

point. The purpose of the project is to provide an integrated set of multi-sectoral, child-centered interventions, including in the areas of health, nutrition, early childhood development, water, sanitation, hygiene and communication for development. Field data collection began on December 14, 2018 for a duration of 3 weeks after the two-week training of the officers. It should be noted that the operational implementation of this survey is carried out by INSEED.

#### **Dissemination Workshop of the National Harmonized Consumer Price Index (NHPCI) Base 2014**

On December 18, 2018, INSEED held a presentation in Lomé on the National Harmonized Consumer Price Index (NHPCI) Base 2014 at a workshop attended by representatives of statistical data providers, NGOs, development partners and other users. It should be recalled that since 1998, Togo, like the other WAEMU member states, calculates and publishes monthly the Harmonized Consumer Price Index of (HCPI). In his opening address, the Cabinet Director of the Ministry of Development Planning, Mr. Essohanam Edjéou, recalled that in 2014 following the recommendations of the Commission, Togo proceeded with the extension of the index to the national level. This extension made it possible to take into account consumer products from rural areas while increasing data collection in new neighborhoods and in other regions of the country from January 2015 to November 2018, thus enabling the development of NHPCI base 2014.



# Meetings, workshops and seminars

## **Ouagadougou, 28 January-08 February 2019**

Data processing workshop of the first wave of the harmonised survey on the living conditions of households and measuring poverty

## **Dakar, 18-21 February 2019**

Statutory meetings of the end of the year 2018 of the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA)

## **New York, 5-8 March 2019**

50<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations statistical Commission

## **Abidjan on 21 March 2019**

29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee of AFRITAC West

## **Niamey, 22-23 March 2019**

39<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee of AFRISTAT

## **Libreville on 26 March 2019**

21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee of AFRITAC Center

## **Niamey on 27 March 2019**

29<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Ministers of AFRISTAT

## **Niamey on 28 March 2019**

Meeting of finance ministers of the Zone franc

## **Addis Ababa, 1-05 April 2019**

Regional Data validation and editing workshop for the 2017 round of the International Comparison Program for Africa (ICP-Africa)

## **Paris, 2-3 April 2019**

PARIS21 2019 Annual Meetings

## **Paris, 2-6 April 2019**

training workshop on rapid estimation methods

## **Douala, 06-10 may 2019**

Short term economic seminar and forecasting in the first half of 2019 in Central Africa

## **Lomé, 27 -31 may 2019**

Short-term economic seminar and forecasting in the first half of 2019 in West Africa

## **Abidjan, 14 -15 June 2019**

Scientific Council of the project CEA/ENSEA

## **Abidjan, 17-19 June 2019**

International Conference on Statistics and Applied Economics (CISEA)-edition 2019

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