



Thursday
19 January 2012

Cape Town
South Africa



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**“Don’t give me
what I LIKE,
give me what
I NEED”**

OPENING CEREMONY SPEECH BY
MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY: NATIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION TREVOR MANUEL.

By Aneen Jordaan

Minister in the Presidency: National Planning Commission Trevor Manuel has urged lawmakers on the continent to adopt policies based on statistics, which advance human progress.

Manuel appealed to the national statistics offices to assert themselves and provide crucial information that will advance Africa’s development agenda.

“Don’t give me what I like, give me what I need,” said Manuel, echoing what he had said previously when minister of finance.

In this statement, Manuel said statistics was needed to help deliver democracy to the people of this country and to the continent.

In a pre-recorded message Manuel, who presided over the birth to the symposium, urged dignitaries and delegates to take forward the important work of gathering and testing statistics, which policy-makers need for evidence-based decisions.

“We need to know the policies we make lead to quality of life,” said Manuel, who has been responsible for statistics in South Africa for the past 11 years.

In 2006 Africa was referred to as the “The Dark Continent” in an article. Fast forward to December 2011 and “Africa Rising” is the description of our land. Africa is rising when many other countries are facing dark times.

“You have to raise the voice of statistics in the continent,” said Manuel, as he kicked off the symposium.

The discussions from this 7th ASSD are extremely important as these will be channeled to the second meeting of Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration. These discussions will ensure we know who we are as a continent, where we are and if life is improving.

Meanwhile Home Affairs Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma has recommitted South Africa to step up its civil registration process. Dlamini-Zuma said South Africa’s policy was that all children should have birth certificates within 30 days of birth. Dlamini-Zuma said she looks forward to welcoming fellow Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration to South Africa in September this year.

** Minister Trevor Manuel expressed extreme regret that he was unable to attend the 7th Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) in person.*

AFRICA Rising

Celebrating Africa



By Bongiwe Ngcobo

Black and Yellow, Red and Yellow, Green and Yellow, Blue and Yellow, it goes on and on. That is the never-ending, beautiful image of Africa.

The richness of these colours put together creates an overwhelming feeling of pride and strength as Africa comes together singing one tune, that of love, that of growth, that of roots, strong roots that go right across the Indian Ocean, through the valleys of the South Pacific and high above the mountains and hills of Anglophone countries.

It's at this very moment that I feel proud to be an African, in a united Africa, in a progressive Africa, in a liberated Africa, in Africa, my Africa, my home, Africa.

I salute you Africa, for your integrity of culture and identity that is engraved in the comers of my soul. I salute you Africa for the evolution of character, the evolution of mindset. I am an African and Africa is the fabric of my existence. Africa my continent, Africa my land, Africa my home, Africa my soul.

Aluta continua ...

The Editor

We proudly share with you today the second edition of ISlbane, the ASSD Daily Newsletter. In this edition we have tried to capture the importance of the events that unfolded yesterday, especially the mood that was set at the opening of the 7th ASSD.

You have all come to feast in the richness of what statistics has to offer - we hope this publication reflects the dialogue and events, sessions and activities, reflecting the diversity of the day at this symposium.

We are aware that it is impossible to capture everything, but the cover page will hopefully inspire you to hold on to this copy and that it becomes a keepsake - even if we have not been able to cover your story.

The social event last night was great fun, allowing us to unwind and get to forge new friendships as we enter a new era of the ASSD journey in the quest to realise the ministers vision, "Don't tell me what I want to hear, but what I need to know!

Today we will publish the third and last symposium newsletter and we hope some of you will submit an article or two as we will be printing a 12 page newsletter for you to receive on Friday morning.

The success of this symposium lies in your hands, and we welcome your contributions for publication which you can take back to your respective countries and share with the world, why it is important to stand up and bring a new focus into statistical development in Africa.

Unfortunately due to such a hectic work schedule yesterday, some errors were missed as we rushed the first ISlbane copy to you - we apologise and continue to commit ourselves to a publication that is of the best quality.

We salute you all for the way you have engaged in powerful dialogue in taking on the responsibility to address ways of making Africa the beautiful continent she is.

We hope you really enjoy reading this 2nd Edition!

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ASSD Awards 2012

By Isaac Netshivhungululu

Four statistical luminaries received awards for their contributions in the field of statistics at 7th Africa Symposium on Statistical Development in Cape Town yesterday.

One award and three certificates were handed to Professor Biyi Afonja, Gérard Chenais, Jean-Louis Bodin, and Timothy Marchant. They were awarded for excellent service in the development of statistics in Africa.

An award is a token given to a person or a group of people to recognise excellence in a certain field, and they are always signified by trophies, titles, certificates, commemorative plaques, medals, badges, pins or ribbons. An award may carry a monetary prize, however, an award may also simply be a public acknowledgement of excellence in a specific field.



Author unknown

Even when you have played the game of your life, it's the feeling of teamwork that you'll remember. You'll forget the plays, the shots and the scores, but you'll never forget YOUR TEAMMATES.

Reference: Lead for Success by John Maxwell

United States track star Wilma Rudolph, winner of three gold medals in the 1960 Rome Olympics, was asked which medal was her favourite. 'My favourite gold medal?' she responded. 'That is an easy question. It was the relay, because I won that with my Tennessee State Tigerbelle teammates, and we could celebrate together'.

Reference: Lead for Success by John Maxwell

Cape Town Welcomes the



ASSD back to South Africa



**“ASSD is not
a talk-shop ...
actions have
been taken after
resolutions”**

*South African Statistician-Genral
Pali Lehohla.*



On the path to civil registration

As the 7th ASSD takes centre stage in Cape Town, Aneen Jordaan looks at the state of civil registration on the continent

It is more than 50 years since former British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan's famous "Wind of Change" speech was made on South African soil, heralding a rise in political and national consciousness.

Since then the continent has marched on the long road towards political and economic independence.

While most countries on the continent have attained political emancipation, efforts to strengthen national statistics systems and official statistics, which are used for developmental planning, are ongoing.

With the 7th Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) kicking off in Cape Town, the attention of Africa's statisticians shifts to civil registration and vital statistics.

Large parts of the continent do not have a functioning civil registration and vital statistics system. The importance of this system is made clear in the ASSD concept note, which states: "Civil registration is the conventional data source for the generation of continuous and complete vital statistics. It provides key health and demographic statistics including many of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) indicators."

In spite of the importance placed on a civil registration system, "Africa does not have a system that meets the demands of the modern world", says Pali Lehohla, South African Statistician-General, ASSD and Statistics Commission for Africa Chair.

Lehohla says civil registration must be an integral part of normal human activity. "Children need to be registered at birth, physical addresses need to be created and movement of people from one place to another needs to be recorded," says Lehohla.

In an effort to gain information on the state of civil registration in Africa, field visits were conducted in five countries, which have civil registration systems ranging from non-functioning to complete. These findings were presented in a regional medium-term plan for 2010 to 2012 titled, "Reforming and Improving Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in Africa". The five African countries visited were:

1. Cameroon, which represented a stable but inadequate civil registration system.
2. Ethiopia, which represented countries with no functional civil registration or vital statistics system, but with ongoing initiatives to establish the system following conventional methods and approaches.
3. Mauritius, which represented a complete civil registration

system for all vital events in demographic terms such as live births, deaths, marriages and divorces.

4. Sierra Leone, which represented post-conflict situations with highly inadequate civil registration operations.
5. South Africa, which represented operations in a wider, more complex population composition, geographic size and situation with recent comprehensive structural changes. Progressive improvement in civil registration coverage and production of vital statistics has been made in recent years.

Civil registration laws exist in all sampled countries except Ethiopia. Mauritius is the only country with compulsory civil law functioning in the provisions of the law.

According to the report, in all five countries the primary vital events - births, deaths, marriages and divorces - are well acknowledged. Registration in Mauritius is passive, meaning that individuals and households are required to come to the registration offices to register the events as prescribed by the law.

The current registration is 99 percent, according to the Mauritian Civil Status Division. Sierra Leone and Cameroon still have a long way to go before they match the standard procedures for registration of vital events.

Mauritius seems to be the benchmark in civil registration to which other African countries should aspire.

However this benchmark country has a population that is considerably smaller than its African counterparts. The smaller the number, the easier it is to manage. Mauritius has enjoyed political and socio-economic stability since independence and has not been affected by conflict to the extent that sub-Saharan Africa has.

"Countries emerging from conflict should know which statistics are important to guide the country in a post-conflict situation. Registers have to be adaptable to situations of conflict and mitigate conflict," says Lehohla.

Speaking from the 7th ASSD, Lehohla said civil registration and vital statistics on the continent needed to be addressed.

"There will be countries that are a priority in need of urgent attention and those that are doing fairly well but civil registration and vital statistics on the continent as a whole needs to be addressed," said Lehohla.

He said a lot of work still needed to go into this issue, which had major implications for Africa's development agenda. "We are still far from reaching the level of civil registration systems of first world countries. Hard work and research lies ahead to obtain the optimal system," said Lehohla.

"As statisticians we have demonstrated that ASSD is not a talk-shop - actions have been taken after resolutions," says Lehohla. The 7th ASSD will be no different.

The Importance of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

By Kgauelo Motloutse

“To make people count, we first need to be able to count people,” said Dr. Lee Jong Wook, former Director-General of the World Health Organisation in 2003.

The demographic incidents of births and deaths are the two most fundamental milestones of human lives. These form vital statistics and are, arguably, the key indicators of a nation’s health.

Vital statistics data are useful in providing health information for small geographic areas. They are advantageous to government in providing continuous and complete information on births and deaths, including causes of death.

According to the United Nations, civil registration is “the continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of the occurrence

and characteristics of vital events pertaining to the population as provided through decree or regulation in accordance with the legal requirements of a country”. In simple terms civil registration is a system that assists with providing information that enables governments to plan services for the population.

It is prudent that citizens are recorded. “We want to register children,” Statistician-General Pali Lehohla said. “Knowing that you exist is a basic human right.” With the absence of civil registration a number of rights cannot be claimed. This means the state should make birth registration accessible and available to all children, including asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants.

Organisation such as the World Bank, the World Health Organisation, the Health Metrics Network, UNICEF and the United Nations Statistics Division among those that have

recognised the need for vital statistics in developing countries.

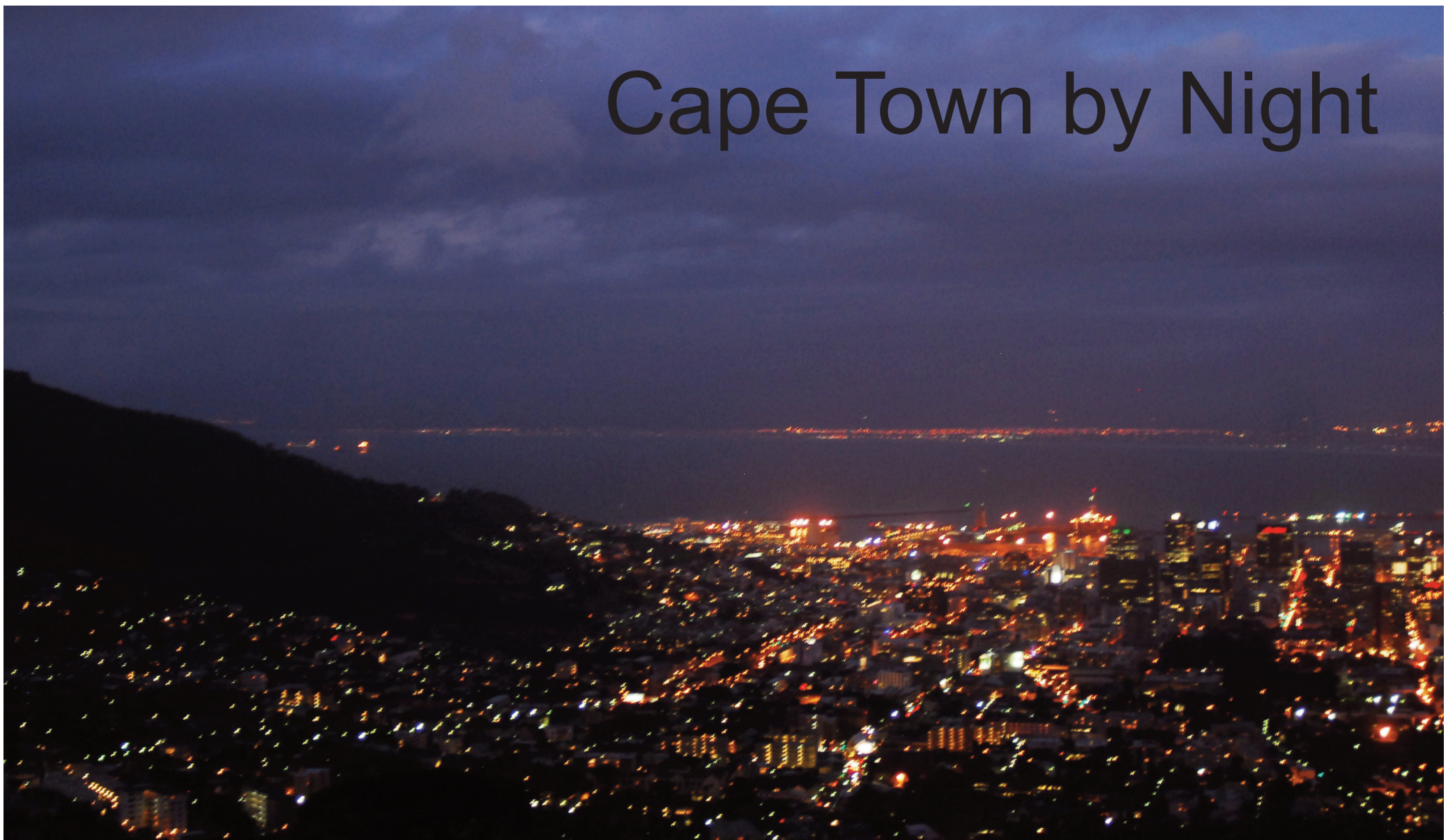
The CRVS are used for:

- Policy-making, for example, to form the basis for policy guidance, planning and projections
- Administration, to monitor demographic trends and action programmes
- Research, to support the scientific study of the interrelationship between fertility and mortality trends and socio-economic development

Complete civil registration allows governments to effectively respond to citizens’ needs in the case of natural disaster, conflict, internal displacement and refuge.

It will also allow better analysis of and policy formulation to address issues of marginalisation and exclusion of certain groups in society.

Cape Town by Night



Kula kutama, kulima mavune.

(Swahili: East Africa)

**The act of eating is pleasurable,
but digging makes one tired.**

Explanation:

*It is good to reap the fruit of one's
labour after a tiresome effort.*

Reference: *Wisdom from Africa - A Collection of Proverbs.*

AFRICA: Open for Business

Economic growth has been averaging 5% annually over the past five years and, as a result, the continent is experiencing a period of rapid and sustained economic recovery. With the economies of the developed world looking far from promising, the investor community is looking elsewhere, and thanks to the sustained period of economic growth and political stability in Africa, the continent is now firmly on its radar screen. And rightly so, African stock exchanges are offering investors that are able to see beyond the perceived high risks, startling returns. At the same time, Africa's businessmen are proving that out of adversity comes opportunity; developing innovative solutions in even the most challenging circumstances, solutions are not only suitable for Africa but for the whole of the developing world.

Reference: *Africa the good news. First Edition November 2008.*

Thursday Programme



Day 2 Thursday, 19 January 2012

Programme Director: South Africa			
08:30 – 08:45	Session 6: Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System – Ongoing Programmes and Future Plans Venue: Plenary Room Chair: AUC 1. Presentation: Global Situation – UNSD 2. Presentation: Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement – CRVS-Core Group 3. Discussion		
08:45 – 10:00	Session 7: Results of the Regional CRVS Baseline Assessment Venue: Plenary Room Chair: Burundi 1. Presentation: CRVS Secretariat 2. Presentation on Results of CRVS Assessments in HMN supported countries: HMN & Senegal 3. Comments: UNFPA 4. Discussion		
10:00 – 10:30	Tea/Coffee Break		
10:30 – 12:00	Session 8: Systemic, Institutional and Infrastructural Challenges in CRVS Venue: Plenary Room Chair: Senegal 1. Presentation: Legal framework – ECA 2. Presentation: Organisation, Management and Operations – UNFPA 3. Presentation: Institutional and Human Infrastructure - AfDB 4. Discussion Instructions for Group Sessions		
12:00 – 13:30	Session 9: Breakaway Sessions Session 9.1: Group 1 Venue: Room 1 Chair: Egypt Legal Framework Mali, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, Mauritius Discussant: ECA/AfDB	Session 9.2: Group 2 Venue: Room 2 Chair: Angola Organisation, Management and Operations Morocco, Niger, Kenya Discussant: UNSD	Session 9.3: Group 3 Venue: Room 3 Chair: Mauritania Institutional and Human Infrastructure Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Uganda Discussant: UNICEF
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch		
14:30 – 16:00	Session 9: CONTINUED ... Session 9.1: Group 1 Venue: Room 1 Chair: Egypt Legal Framework Mozambique, Botswana, South Africa Discussant: ECA/AfDB	Session 9.2: Group 2 Venue: Room 2 Chair: Angola Organisation, Management and Operations Swaziland, South Africa Discussant: UNSD	Session 9.3: Group 3 Venue: Room 3 Chair: Mauritania Institutional and Human Infrastructure Burundi, South Africa, Botswana Discussant: UNICEF
16:00 – 16:30	Tea/Coffee Break		
16:30 – 18:00	Session 10: Report-back from Breakaway Sessions Venue: Plenary Room Chair: Senegal 1. Report-back on Legal Framework - Egypt 2. Report-back on Organisation, Management and Operations - Angola 3. Report-back on Institutional and Human Infrastructure - Mauritania 4. Discussion		
18:00 – 18:45	Session 11: Bonus Session for Day 2 Venue: Plenary room 1. Presentation on Maternal Mortality by Dr Eric Udjo 2. Discussion		

End of Day 2

Jour 2 Jeudi, 19 Janvier 2012

Directeur de Programme : Afrique du Sud			
08:30 – 08:45	Session 6 : Systèmes d'Etat Civil et de Statistiques d'état civil – Programmes en cours et projets futurs Lieu : Salle des plénières Présidence : CUA 1. Présentation : Situation Mondiale – DSNU 2. Présentation : Programme Africain d'Amélioration Accélérée – Groupe ECSEC Discussions		
08:45 – 10:00	Session 7 : Résultats de l'Evaluation régionale de l'ECSEC Lieu : Salle des plénières Présidence : Bourundi 1. Présentation : Secrétariat ECSEC 2. Présentation sur les Résultats des évaluations ECSEC dans les pays appuyés par HMN : HMN & Sénégal 3. Commentaires : FNUAP 4. Discussions		
10:00 – 10:30	Pause thé/Café		
10:30 – 12:00	Session 8 : Défis Systémiques, Institutionnels et Infrastructurels dans ECSEC Lieu : Salle des plénières Présidence : Sénégal 1. Présentation : Cadre Légal – CEA 2. Présentation : Organisation, Gestion et Opérations – FNUAP 3. Présentation : Infrastructure humaine et institutionnelle – BAD 4. Discussions Instructions pour les Sessions parallèles		
12:00 – 13:30	Session 9: Sessions parallèles Session 9.1: Groupe 1 Lieu : salle 1 Présidence : Egypte Cadre Légal Mali, Guinée Equatoriale, Rwanda, Maurice Commentateurs : CEA/BAD	Session 9.2: Groupe 2 Lieu : salle 2 Présidence : Angola Organisation, Gestion et Opérations Maroc, Niger, Kenya Commentateurs : DSNU	Session 9.3: Groupe 3 Lieu : salle 3 Présidence : Mauritanie Infrastructure humaine et institutionnelle Nigéria, Burkina Faso, Ouganda Commentateurs : UNICEF
13:30 – 14:30	Pause Déjeuner		
14:30 – 16:00	Session 9: Suite Session 9 : Session 9.1 : Groupe 1 Lieu : salle 1 Présidence : Egypte Cadre Légal Mozambique, Botswana, Afrique du Sud Commentateurs : CEA/BAD		
16:00 – 16:30	Thé/Café		
16:30 – 18:00	Session 10 : Rapports des sessions parallèles Lieu : salle des plénières Présidence : Sénégal 1. Rapport sur le Cadre Légal – Egypte 2. Rapport sur Organisation, Gestion et Opérations - Angola 3. Rapport sur l'Infrastructure humaine et institutionnelle - Mauritanie 4. Discussions		
18:00 – 18:45	Session 11 : Session supplémentaire Jour 2 Lieu : salle des plénières Présentation sur la Mortalité 1. Présentation sur la Mortalité Maternelle par Dr Eric Udjo 2. Discussion		

Fin Jour 2



Economic Commission
for Africa

