



**The ISibalo Capacity Building Programme: Launching the African Young Statisticians Research Programme**

**“1<sup>st</sup> Africa Conference of Young Statisticians”**

**Open Statement to South Africa’s Minister of Finance, Honorable Minister  
Trevor Manuel**

**3 July 2008**

**Arising from the gathering of young statisticians from 25 African countries at the 1<sup>st</sup> Africa Conference of Young Statisticians held in Pretoria, South Africa, 1-3 July 2008**

Considering the elevated role of statistics in Africa as the demand grows for better data for better development outcomes;

Considering the significant role played by the ECA, Friends of the ECA, AfDB and Statistics South Africa in ensuring the success of the African statistical programmes and the creation of synergies to ensure the effective and optimal use of resources on the African continent;

Considering the need to ensure a holistic, integrative approach to statistical capacity building in Africa;

Commending the Minister of Finance, Honorable Minister Manuel, for the support provided to the revitalization of statistics in South Africa, statistical programmes and their outcomes;

Taking into account the acute demand for reliable, timely, accurate and relevant statistics to manage for development results, measure progress towards achieving the MDGs and national PRSPs through the effective execution of censuses in the 2010 round;

Taking cognizance of the need for us as young statisticians in Africa to rise to the fore as custodians of Africa's future through the application of our intellectual capability, knowledge and expertise in the discourse on development issues in Africa;

**We the young statisticians of Africa represented at the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference of Young Statisticians held in South Africa this July of 2008, therefore recommend:**

**(a) That our African Governments through the national statistical offices, universities, research institutions and line-function ministries, provide adequate support and resources to the advancement of statistics in Africa and the intellectual space for us to grow and be the responsible drivers of Africa's current measurement challenges in pursuit of sustainable development in Africa**

**(b) That on a biennial basis, the Africa Conference of Young Statisticians should continue to provide us as young statisticians in Africa, a platform to deliberate on key issues of statistics: their collection, methodology, relevance and use in the range of considerations Africa must face in eliminating poverty hunger and the burden of disease in Africa**

- (c) That the Africa Conference of Young Statisticians while driven by South Africa must receive collaborative support from other African governments in a joint effort of our African governments towards building new cadres of statisticians to serve the results agenda**
  
- (d) That as an outcome of the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference of Young Statisticians, through the ISibalo Capacity Building Programme, a research & development programme is developed which will develop a prioritized research agenda to investigate the emerging issues including climate change, poverty, food security, HIV and AIDS and other key development issues**
  
- (e) That as an outcome of the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference of Young Statisticians, through the ISibalo Capacity Building Programme and the ECA, collaborations with centres of excellence across Africa, are established to drive training programmes to better equip us Africa's young statisticians in the core and thematic areas of learning**
  
- (f) That senior statisticians are mobilized to participate in an effective mentoring programme across Africa towards growing tomorrow's leaders today**
  
- (g) That the Honourable Minister of National Planning, Trevor Manuel, agrees to be the patron of the Africa Conference of Young Statisticians, its programmes and**

**Signed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July 2008 in Pretoria, South Africa by Africa's young statisticians and leaders of tomorrow.**